

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Lumpkin Replaced by Mayo

by Dennis Conkin

Mayor Frank Jordan has appointed James Mayo, a director of the United Negro College Fund, and a trustee of Bethel African American Episcopal Church, to replace The Reverend Eugene Lumpkin on the city's Human Rights Commission.

Lumpkin, associated with the right wing Traditional Values Coalition, was fired last month by Jordan after months of controversy that began with the expression of Lumpkin's religious belief that homosexuality is "an abomination unto God"—and escalated with Lumpkin's support of biblical passages that say homosexuals should be stoned to death.

Lesbian Supervisor Susan Leal, who was among the first to call for Lumpkin's termination, is "hopeful" about Mayo's appointment.

"I have received very positive comments concerning Mr. Mayo's appointment to the Human Rights Commission, period. Mutual friends and colleagues have shared with me his strong background, both in civil rights and the religious community, as well as his personal commitment to fighting discrimination against lesbians and gay men, period. I hope that his appointment will enable our city, including the African-American community, the African-American lesbian and gay community, and the entire lesbian and gay

community, to come together and move forward on a positive agenda to heal the unfortunate rifts that occurred."

Supervisor Carole Migden said that Mayo, a former candidate for the Community College Board of Directors, "is well known in political circles."

"I think he will well represent his constituent's interests and do a great all around job of representing the city," Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"James Mayo is just the most decent guy," said Noah Griffin, Jordan's press secretary. "He's a bridge builder and doesn't have a shrill bone in his body. He's really a decent human being." ▼

House of Representatives To Gays: You Are Not Equal

News analysis
by Mike Salinas

The United States House of Representatives moved on Tuesday, September 28, to write anti-gay discrimination into federal law, ending months of speculation about American lawmakers' commitment to fairness and equality.

The instrument by which representatives created a separate and unequal class of people — lesbians and gay men — was an amendment to the 1993 Department of Defense authorization bill, using language authored by putatively Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia and entered by another ostensible Democrat, Representative Ike Skelton of Missouri, establish-

ing an anti-gay military policy in federal law. Since it is highly unlikely President Clinton will veto the funding for the military — the nation's second-largest employer — the amendment is almost certain to stand.

The House voted 264-169 to defeat an amendment offered by Representative Marty Meehan of Massachusetts, similar to the one brought before the Senate by California Senator Barbara Boxer, to nullify the Nunn/Skelton amendment.

Gay Republicans were somewhat cheered by the statements of GOP Representative Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin, who accused his fellow House members of homophobia from the floor.

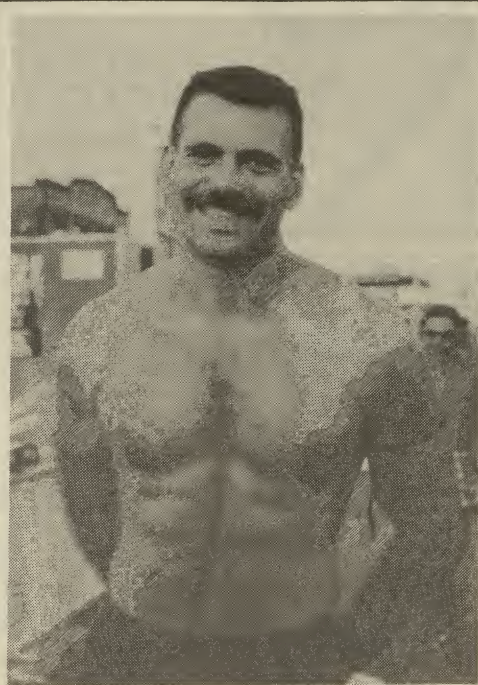
"The question today is whether all Americans who meet the standards of conduct of the U.S. military should have the opportunity to serve," Gunderson said.

"I encourage my colleagues to lift the mantle of leadership, to do what is right, not what is politically easy — because to do any less is to misunderstand the principles of our nation, our history, the Bible, and even the Republican Party," he said.

Gunderson said most members of Congress would object to hearing racist and religious slurs. "Yet I doubt there are few here who are offended by the word faggot," he said.

"There is unfortunately in

(Continued on page 13)



Gratuitous Folsom Beefcake

For more flesh and fantasy, see p. 18. (Photo: Judi Parks)

LLEGO Hosts Second Gay Latino/Latina Confab

by Dennis Conkin

An estimated 800 Latino and Latina lesbians and gays will gather in San Jose for a historic four-day conference next month to map a strategy for a national agenda.

"El Segundo Encuentro Nacional," the second conference of the National Latino/Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO), will be held from October 7-11 at the Hotel Sainte Claire in downtown San Jose.

The conference will be an opportunity for activists from diverse aspects of the Latino/Latina communities to "explore, assess, and create strategies that address issues affecting our lives," said Martin Ornelas, a LLEGO spokesperson.

National lesbian and gay groups such as the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund have not successfully addressed the needs of minority gays, Ornelas told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"They need to understand what the issues are," Ornelas said.

Among the "hot topics" sure to be discussed throughout the conference will be "co-gender issues," including shared political leadership and organizing between Latina lesbians and Latino gay men.

Another popular topic, Ornelas said, will be LLEGO's grant application to the federal Centers For Disease Control for funds to conduct na-

tional HIV and AIDS prevention and education work in the Latino/Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.

Lesbian San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal said that while many mainstream lesbian and gay political clubs and institutions are beginning to address the issues of people of color, the conference is "very important" because it will draw hundreds of Latino/Latina activists together to discuss major issues facing the communities, and to network as they search for solutions and strategies.

Target the youth

Leal said there is need for CDC HIV and AIDS prevention funds specific to Latino/Latina cultural needs — particularly with young at-risk Latino populations.

In addition to the conference workshops and seminars, there will also be cultural outreach, with an art exhibit organized by LLEGO California, whose reception will be opened by a performance piece by the Writes Of Morning, the only Bay Area Chicano gay writer's group.

The conference is co-sponsored by a variety of Bay Area Latino/Lesbian and gay groups including ELLAS (Latino Lesbian Organization), Pro Latino, and LLEGO California.

For more information about the conference contact Juan Rodriguez at (415) 749-6700. ▼

Meinhold, Steffan Renew Legal Attack on Military Ban

by Bob Roehr

The legal challenges by Joe Steffan and Keith Meinhold to the U.S. military's ban on gay and lesbian servicemembers continue, holding the promise of ending the military's apartheid and the federal government's formal discrimination against a group of its own citizens.

The case of Petty Officer Meinhold is providing the most drama at this point: on January 28, U.S. District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. ruled that the policy under which the Navy attempted to discharge Meinhold was unconstitutional, and issued an injunction to stop further discriminatory policies by the

Department of Defense (DoD). Now the judge has ordered Defense Secretary Les Aspin, the Secretary of the Navy, and Meinhold's commanding officer to appear before him on Thursday, September 30 to argue why they should not be held in contempt of court for violating his order to end discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military.

Had Hatter simply issued a judgment on the constitutional question, his opinion would have been initially binding only within that circuit court. But by issuing an injunction prohibiting action, its impact was expanded outside that

(Continued on page 12)



Keith Meinhold.

First of Two Sections

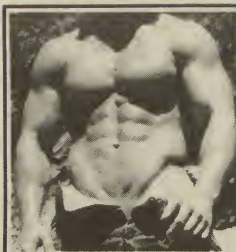
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COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Community News



The cast of "Unforgettable," with director Robert Morgan-Wilde (left, foreground), mugs for the camera. Catch their benefit for the Black Coalition on AIDS on Oct. 2. (Photo: Judi Parks)

An Unforgettable Benefit Planned for BCA

by Dennis Conkin

The forthcoming "Unforgettable," a musical tribute to African-American musical icons including Dinah Washington, Nat King Cole, and Sam Cooke, will be hosted by the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre at 620 Sutter Street on October 2 and 3, as a fundraiser for the Black Coalition on AIDS.

Director Robert Morgan-Wilde, a Deacon-elect at St. Paul Tabernacle Baptist Church, said he got the idea for "Unforgettable" after being trained through BCA's Raifiki Services Project, which provides culturally-relevant care for African-American people with AIDS.

"After so many reports in the media that paint Christians as less than compassionate, I am determined to give newspapers and television sta-

tions a headline fit to be printed: 'Black Churches Raise \$10,000 for AIDS support services,'" he said.

"Charity begins at home"

According to Morgan-Wilde, the benefit seemed "a perfect way to show that charity still begins at home and spreads abroad, as the Bible says."

Since 1986, BCA has played a primary role in advocating for more HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care in the African-American community and opened the culturally specific HIV/AIDS housing and emotional and practical support services training.

The programs of the agency are so central to the African-American community that in August, the *Sun Reporter*, the major newspaper serving the Bay Area black

community, wrote an editorial supporting the agency and asking its readers to contribute to the group.

More than 50 percent of women with AIDS in America are African-American, and more than half of all pediatric AIDS cases are African-American children. And although African-Americans only comprise 12 percent of the US teen population, they account for 37 percent of AIDS cases among teens, according to the Centers For Disease Control.

"Unforgettable" will be performed twice — at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 2, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 3. General Admission tickets are \$25, and Patron Tickets are \$100. For more information, contact the BCA at 346-2364. Tickets may also be purchased at Medium Rare Records, 2310 Market Street, near Castro. ▼

A New Warden at Vacaville — And Maybe a New Level of Care

by Dennis Conkin

A new warden has been appointed at California Medical Facility at Vacaville to succeed the controversial former warden George Ingle, who oversaw the institution since 1992.

The new warden, Mike Pickett, 48, has a reputation for "open-mindedness and liberality," according to ACT UP spokesperson Jim Lewis. "While we know nothing about as yet about the new warden, he would have to be an improvement over Ingle," Lewis said. "Ingle was a tough minded, security conscious specialist and never should have been appointed to oversee what is in essence a hospital prison."

Ingle's confirmation as Vacaville warden was opposed in 1991 by ACT UP and other groups concerned about the treatment of inmates with HIV in the facility.

The 3,266-inmate facility is the prison hospital for the California State prison sys-

tem; inmates within the 115,000-person state prison system with serious medical or psychiatric problems are housed at the Bay Area site, including an estimated 343 prisoners with HIV and AIDS, according to Pat Mandeville, a CMF spokesperson.

Inmates' charges

The facility became the subject of press attention in October 1992 after a hunger and medication strike by inmates with HIV who alleged that substandard medical care at the facility led to patient deaths — and that compassionate release for patients who were expected to die within six months was being held up in bureaucratic log jams as retaliation.

Eventually, State Senator Milton Marks entered the fray and an investigation into the inmate charges by the state Assembly's Public Safety Committee, which he chairs, validated many of the allegations. Marks wrote a caustic report on conditions at

Vacaville and recommended 25 changes that would alleviate the problems, including the establishment of an ombudsman's office, protection of staff and inmate whistle blowers who report problems, and increased training and education of medical caregivers at the facility about AIDS.

But even after Marks's report, compassionate care was held up for an inmate, Stanley Young, with the explanation that he still constituted a threat to the community. Within hours of Vacaville's testimony to that effect, he died.

Activists and legislative watchdogs are now cautiously optimistic about Pickett's appointment.

"I can only hope it's a good sign, and that he can continue to move forward on the recommendations made by the Public Safety Committee and the concerns of legislators such as Senator Marks, as well as activists," said Carol Stuart, Marks's San Francisco press spokesperson. ▼

Shanti to Honor PWAs, But Chidester Dies Before Ceremony

by Dennis Conkin

Shanti Project will honor the contributions of five people with HIV disease, two volunteers, and three foundations at its fifth annual "Making Every Day Count" dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Thursday, October 7.

Proceeds from the event support the agency's practical, emotional, and other support services for clients.

Although the event had planned to honor five people living with HIV disease, including AIDS activist John Marshall Chidester, Chidester tragically succumbed to the disease last week.

A Native American and member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Chidester was well-known in San Francisco and Los Angeles as Sister X-Plosion!. He produced numerous fundraisers for many AIDS service groups and was active in educating high school students about AIDS and safe sex. With B.A.R. news editor Mike Salinas, Chidester co-wrote *Dimanche d'Indulgence*, a live educational spectacular in Paris that, at one point, had 3,000 Frenchmen kneeling and ejaculating (in the Catholic sense) along to a "Condom Savior Mass." Shortly thereafter, the Catholic Bishops who convened in Lourdes denounced him as a heretic and blasphemer.

Before his death, Chidester

was accepted into the Paris order of the Sisters, and finished his novel, *Wish in One Hand: The Story of a Man Who Was a Nun*. His obituary appears on page 25.

Other individuals who will be honored for their contributions include Wayne Corbitt, a leading black gay poet and playwright; Phillip Denney, a Shanti emotional support volunteer and group facilitator; Marta Rosales, a client in Shanti's Crossing program, who is a member of the Instituto de la Raza Speaker's Bureau; and Wyndham Young, a Crossings volunteer who provides emotional support to clients living in the Tenderloin.

Three groups will be recognized for their fundraising for Shanti, including the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

The annual banquet begins at 6 p.m. at Club 36 in the



Sister X-Plosion!

Grand Hyatt, with the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Individual tickets are \$150, with tables of 10 beginning at \$1500.

For more information about the event contact Rick Ameil or Brenda Larabee at (415) 777-2273. ▼

New HIV Task Force Named

by Dennis Conkin

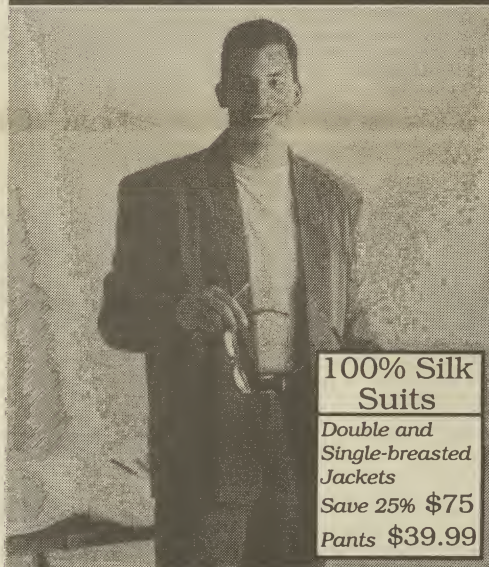
Mayor Frank Jordan swore in the members of the Joint Task Force on the HIV Epidemic on Wednesday, September 29. The Task Force is constituted for one year and will submit an annual report on the state of the HIV epidemic to the Board of Supervisors, assist in coordinating the city's response to AIDS, and plan for needed services.

Members represent the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors, The San Francisco Department of Public Health, and constituent groups.

The Task Force Members are:

Sandra Hernandez, M.D. — chair
Melissa Marsh
Honorable Mayor Frank Jordan
Lee Ann Monfredini
Honorable Angela Alioto
Brandy Moore
Flou Stroud, RN
Bob Nelson
Mitch Katz, M.D.
Rick Pacurer
Rafael Chang
Sean Sasser
Carmen Chavez
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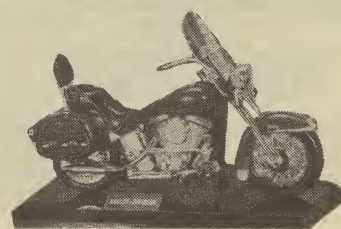


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Index:



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Calendar	52
Classifieds	32
Health & Community	5
Letters	7
Mr. Marcus	54
Obituaries	24
Open Forum	6
Outer Limit	10
Out There	38
Personals	59
Queer Watch	29
Sports/Fitness	46
Wayne Friday	9

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Community News

'Closet Queen' Finds New Way to Raise AIDS \$

by Mary Richards

In the last 20 years closets have taken on a strange significance. And in the beginning, it took the gay community to give this obscure part of the household a meaning all its own. Nowadays people can be "in or out of the closet" about almost anything.

We are dealing here, though, not with the closet as a metaphor for life, but with that part of your home as it probably looks at the moment — a hole in the wall with the door shut tight on all manner of disagreeable disarray within.

No need to fret; we've discovered a cure for the common closet. Her name is Pat Taffer, and she is a senior design consultant with the Closet Factory.

What makes Pat special, aside from her track record on reorganizing anything from small apartments in San Francisco to estates in Carmel, is that for the next year she plans to donate ten percent of her earnings from the business to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The idea began last October when Pat decided she wanted to help in the fight against AIDS. She discussed her plans with a friend, interior designer David Gentry, who suggested the AIDS Emergency Fund as the organization that should be the beneficiary. It was decided that any money given to the Fund would be donated in the name of the person who commissioned the work, or in any name of their choice. After a presentation to the Fund's Board of Directors, Pat received their approval to go ahead with the project and advertise the ten percent donation.

"I do a lot of work for this community," Pat says, "I would venture to say that 20 to 25 percent of my work comes from the gay community. I don't have the opportunity to give of my time because I'm working, but I personally want a cure for AIDS found, and anything that we can do to find that cure I think we should do."

"I'm kind of excited about this because it's good for them and it's good for me, too. This gives me an opportunity to meet more people and do more work, and again, we're helping something that needs help right now."

Pat has worked with the Closet Factory for the last six years. "I have done \$800 closets, I have done \$45,000 closets," she says. "We just did a closet in Hillsborough that was larger than anyone's living room and dining room combined."

"In the house that I did in Hillsborough I had to make room for an overflow closet — are you ready for this — for the gentleman who had an overflow of 150 suits. I had to make room for his wife's overflow closet for 350 pairs of shoes."

Shades of Imelda! It looks as if drag queens and dilettantes alike could benefit from Pat's closet techniques. And what self-respecting girl about town could resist the project Pat describes where



My closet, my self: a former hole in the wall that's benefited from Pat Taffer's personal touch.

"it took hours and hours to measure drawers with Lucite dividers. We did almost \$3,000 of Lucite in this one closet, measuring to make sure that we have exact room for all the Chanel makeup."

Although she does work on large estates, Pat explains that most of her business is done right here in San Francisco where problems with the economy take their toll. "People that can't afford to move are going to stay where they are and try to organize and create more space. When you look at people who buy, it takes two working people nowadays to buy a house. Two working people means two wardrobes. Two wardrobes means more clothes."



Closet coordinator Pat Taffer.

(Photo: Judi Parks)

"If you look at the so-called homes that are sold now, the smaller the rooms the more you can keep them in line with affordability. Small bedrooms means no place for drawers, maybe just a bed, so we've got to go into those closets and create space."

"Even with big homes, and I shouldn't say this with architects as good as they are, but I am convinced that whatever space is left after they put everything else in the house, they leave for closets. It used to be that they never put any thought into it. If you look at the houses that were built in the early 1900's or so, you don't have closet space. We wonder sometimes if people had clothes!"

Pat's personalized touch and the custom-designed work that goes into each project, regardless of its cost, are what make the difference between pre-fab cubbyholes and storage solutions. She's there to give a free estimate on ideas for office space (in or out of the home), laundry and utility rooms, garages, computer and entertainment areas — and, of course, closets.

The Closet Factory utilizes a system of Eurodesign hardware and materials that is manufactured in 25 factories throughout the country, making it possible to customize each job and complete the project for less than it would cost to hire a carpenter. The entire system is movable and can be reorganized in a different space that the one for which it was originally designed. Pat likes to point out that in many cases, "you can't buy an armoire for the same price."

So if you're tired of that cluttered hole in the wall and envision the day when getting ready for work will cease to be a case of lost and found, give the Office Factory a call at 1-800-999-6607, ask for Pat, and mention the AIDS Emergency Fund. And whatever your needs, don't be embarrassed: the Closet Queen of San Francisco has seen a lot of closet cases in this city! ▼

Health & Community

The Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group Volunteers are needed to provide one-on-one practical and emotional support to people with HIV. Training will be provided on Oct. 16-17. Sign-up is now. 863-1581.

Spiritual Healing Ma Jaya Bhagavati, interfaith healer and spiritual teacher, will bring her special message about AIDS and spiritual healing to the City on October 4, at the Jewish Community Center at 7 p.m., California at Presidio.

The first International Conference on Engineered Vaccines Through Oct. 2, scientists will discuss the current vaccine theories and practices. Among others, Dr. Jonas Salk will speak. For those who register after August 1, the cost is \$450. However, that includes a lunch, a reception, coffee breaks, and written materials. At the Fairmont Hotel, 950 Mason Street.

Community Forum on AIDS Vaccines A free open forum, probably without coffee breaks and receptions. Co-sponsored by HIV Care, Project Inform, AIDS Treatment News, and ACT UP Golden Gate. Friday, October 1, at UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Room, 3333 California Street, 7 p.m.

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center Professor Luo Pei-Yuo from Canton leads classes in Qi-Gong meditation on Saturdays. The cost is \$200 for six classes. Call Josephine Hui at (510) 208-6080.

AIDS/HIV Nightline The telephone contact offering emotional support every night for anyone who has HIV or AIDS concerns is seeking volunteers to staff phones. Call Ralph or Dave at 752-4866.

Gay A/PI Identity GAPA Men's Group on self-image meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm. Sept. 28-Nov. 23 in Berkeley. (510) 841-6224.

Freedom Social Club New organization for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Charles Silver: (510) 895-8991.

Bay Area HIV Support & Education Services Drop-in support groups, closed groups as well. 625 O'Farrell. 749-6714.

The Age of Bel Canto Opera appreciation classes taught by Paul Thomason. \$60. 3 weekly classes. SF Conservatory of Music. 759-3446.

Positive Motion Anna Halprin's touch-based movement & art workshops for men living with HIV. \$90-175. 461-9479.

Women's Action Coalition Meets every Tuesday, 7:30pm. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (510) 869-2584.

SF AIDS Foundation Seeks volunteers for its client services department. 864-5555, ext. 2051.

Cable Positive Assistance funds for PWAs and PWHIV who work in the cable industry. (800) 378-AIDS.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth 23 and under. Social events, counseling and peer support. (510) 530-8529 or (415) 553-4026.

Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center Classes and events range from Latin ballroom to smoking cessation, legal tools for domestic partnership, and Goddess lore. 175 Stockton Ave., San Jose. (408) 293-2429.

Bay Area Young Positives HIV support group for young people of color. Weekly meetings, activities. Every Wednesday, 7pm. 25 Van Ness, 5th fl. 923-0460.

HIV+ Support & Education Programs Different groups for gay men, women, public education forums, couples, family & friends support group, and socials. All groups meet 6:30-8pm, Mondays & Tuesdays. 235 W MacArthur Blvd., Room 530. For schedule, call: 596-6337.

Taking the Next Step Four-week coming out groups for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people, about friends & family, relationships & intimacy. Facilitated by Jeff Johnson & Phyllis Zillhart. \$12-25. Sponsored by Voice & Vision. 553-4515.

Francis of Assisi Community Subsidized housing facility for mobility-impaired and wheelchair users is now taking waiting list applications for housing beginning Sept. 30. 621-4092 (TT 1-800-755-2929).

Alternative Alcohol Problem Fellowship Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm. 398-6594.

Spectrum Lesbian and Gay Men's Support Groups Reservations now being taken for groups meeting Monday evenings. Eight-week commitment required. \$15 per session. 457-1115.

New Horizons/Rainbow's End Young gay, lesbian and bisexual support/social groups meet weekly. 457-1115 or 457-3523.

Free Self-Defense Classes San Francisco Street Patrol teaches you how to fend off would-be bashers. Sundays, 3-4pm. Collingwood Park, 18th & Collingwood. 985-7423.

It's a fundraiser. It's a concert. It's a fundraiser and a concert. Zulu Spear, Kotojao, and African Rain play at the Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero, to benefit the Children's Action Fund. Friday, Oct. 1, at 9pm. \$10.

Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers The world-famous group will be seeking boys ages 7 and up "with unchanged voices" until Nov. 15. Last year they went to Canada. To set up an audition for your youngster, call 431-1137 or (510) 887-4311.

Community News

NGLTF Takes BofA's Filthy Lucre

by Dennis Conkin

A major Silicon Valley fundraiser for the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force's Public Policy Institute next month has become overshadowed in controversy, amidst revelations that the Bank of America is a corporate sponsor of the event.

The Bank of America has been the subject of a boycott by local lesbian and gay activists since last summer, when the financial institution reversed its earlier decision to withhold funding from the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America.

The Bank justified its decision to resume funding by saying it been assured that the BSA, which refuses to admit gay youth into its ranks, was not anti-gay and did not discriminate.

Following BofA's controversial decision, then-San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg moved to transfer city funds from the multi-national institution to another bank.

Achtenberg's proposal passed the Board of Supervisors last December but was vetoed on Christmas Eve by Mayor Frank Jordan.

Earlier this year, the San Francisco Board of Education and the Evergreen Valley Unified School District in San Jose voted to transfer millions of dollars in funds from

BofA to other institutions, and groups ranging from the National Lawyers Guild to the Metropolitan Community Church have withdrawn funds from the Bank.

"Once again the national organizations are demonstrating that they are not enlightened enough to follow the lead of local activists," John Woods of Queer Scouts told the B.A.R. "This demonstrates how out of touch our national organizations are. They haven't been vocal on the Boy Scouts or the boycott issue, even they are aware of it, and even though many of their members are located in San Francisco, so I think they did it for the money."

"It's very hypocritical and inconsistent of the national organization. It's stupid and appalling," Woods said.

The decision of NGLTF to accept corporate sponsorship funds from the institution is "really unfortunate," according to Ken Bukowski, president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club.

"It upsets me. It's too bad," he said.

Although Bukowski said that he realized that the bank had gay and lesbian employees, and that NGLTF's organizing around workplace issues was "really important," he expressed concern about the Task Force's acceptance of the bank's corporate sponsorship.

"It was a very carefully measured decision," said Chris Collins, NGLTF co-chair. "It's not like they're giving funds to our anti-violence or Fight the Right project, but to a workplace project. If you look at it in that light, it makes it a little different."

Forgotten Scouts leader Ken McPherson told the B.A.R. that he didn't think the lesbian and gay community should be at war with BofA forever.

"To date, the Bank of America has not funded the BSA since the initial controversy. With that in mind, it's our recommendation to take the money and withhold trust. The bank has a great deal to do to win back our faith, but it makes sense to give them that opportunity — and cash is a nice place to start," McPherson said.

The fundraiser, which requests that guests dress in "business attire," celebrates the 20th anniversary of the group, and is sponsored by Apple Lambda, Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, Digital Squeeze, and High Tech Gays.

The event will be held at Apple Computer's Computer Research and Development Center in Cupertino on October 15. Apple chief litigator Elizabeth Birch is NGLTF co-chair, with local activist Chris Collins.

The Bank Of America is listed as one of 21 corporate sponsors for the event including Apple Computer, American Date Management, Ziff Davis Publishing Company, the San Francisco law firm of Morrison and Foerster, Chevron, and other groups. ▼

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Bob Ross, Publisher
Mike Salinas, News Editor
Chris Culwell, Arts/Entertainment Editor
Michael M. Yamashita, General Manager
David McBrayer, Classified Advertising

Executive-Editorial Office
395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 861-5019, 861-7230

Editorial

Verantwoordelijkheid

The above is one of our favorite foreign words: it means "responsibility" in Dutch.

We bring it up because we have just returned from Amsterdam, so we're preoccupied with both the Dutch language and responsibility. Unfortunately, it seemed as though the Dutch themselves are not very concerned with being responsible: virtually every gay bar in Amsterdam has a dark back room — most, in fact, advertise them heavily — where far too much unprotected sex takes place.

Then we visited the Folsom Street Fair here in San Francisco and found a certain lack of *verantwoordelijkheid* among some of the people there, too. In particular, we discovered there was a back room scene in at least one of our South of Market bars here that day.

We are a newspaper; it is our job to disseminate news, so listen: *there is an epidemic out there, and it's killing people.*

Twelve years into the epidemic, we assumed we no longer needed to keep reminding people about HIV and bodily fluids. Sorry if we were wrong.

But since we frankly have to assume those people in the back rooms, both here and abroad, already know about HIV and bodily fluids, we would like to remind them of something we learned about long before we knew about AIDS: the golden rule. The concept of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you dates, as far as we know, as far back as Aristotle. All these years later, it still hasn't sunk in for some.

We don't want to sound like your junior high civics teacher, but most of what we call civilization — or at least, most of what we like about civilization — is based on the golden rule concept. It's been put other ways, but it always means the same thing. In this instance it means: wear a rubber; do not engage in unprotected anal sex; if someone means enough to you to have sex with, then protect them from a grisly death.

We at the B.A.R. go through anywhere from 12 to 30 obituaries every week, reading them, typing them in, and proof-reading them — and it's a damn unpleasant task. Not that we begrudge it, since we know it's important to register the milestones of our readers' lives, but we certainly hate reading about the people we know and the people we will never get to know, dying of a terrible and largely preventable disease. Many of them are kids in their teens; that is one tragedy. Others are older men who have spent their lifetimes cultivating relationships with friends and lovers that are now left behind to mourn; that is another tragedy.

All AIDS deaths are tragic. As President Clinton said in a different context, we don't have a single person to waste.

Fair in San Francisco

We welcome visitors to San Francisco who have come to take part in our Castro Street Fair, and urge them to be as careful while they are here as they would be, say, in the middle of Yellowstone: just as a carelessly tossed cigarette can spread wildfires, a careless encounter in the men's room of a bar may also spread death and destruction. And, like that cigarette, the damage done may smolder until long after you have left our vacationland.

Please remember: *verantwoordelijkheid*.

Unfair in Washington

And speaking of damage, our Congress has written discrimination into law with Tuesday's vote to adopt Sam Nunn's anti-gay language in the bill to fund our military. It was — *is* — a shameful moment in American history, analogous to the Jim Crow decision (establishing African-Americans as second-class citizens) by the Supreme Court last century.

Like Jim Crow laws, Senator Sam Nunn's maneuver will be overturned eventually. And like the smug white men who made the earlier decision, Nunn will be cast on the ash heap of history. Congratulations, Sam: you've bought yourself a few decades of derision, and an eternity of oblivion. The brave gay men and lesbians who fight your transparent homophobia will live on. ▼

"First they came for the homeless, and I didn't speak out, because I was not homeless. Then they came for the prostitutes, and I didn't speak out, because I was not a prostitute. Then they came for the addicted, and I didn't speak out, because I was not addicted. Then they came for the soldiers, and I didn't speak out, because I was not a soldier. Then they came for the parents, and I didn't speak out, because I was not a parent. Then they came for the political rebels, and I didn't speak out, because I was not political. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak for me..."
(with apologies to Pastor Martin Niemöller)



Guest Opinion

The Politics of Self-Determination

by Caitlin R. Kiernan, *The Alabama Forum*

It's happened more than once.

Someone gay has gone to excruciating pains to explain to me how my transsexualism presents a fundamentally different predicament than his homosexuality (these people always seem to be male). That, whereas I chose to undergo sexual reassignment, he simply is gay. The insinuation here is, of course, that while he was merely an unfortunate victim of circumstance (submenu, nature or nurture: over-protective mother/weak father vs. genetic programming and "micro-hypothalamic"), I've got whatever unpleasanties comin' because I bloody well asked for them. Somehow, I could have avoided all this mess.

The logical fallacies in this argument run amuck, vast fuzzy herds on mental plains.

The assumption, for instance, that there exists this "choice" for transsexuals, that it's beginning sex reassignment that makes one TS. The assumption, for another, that queerness as it regards one's taste in fuckbunnies is programmed, either by environmental pressures or the luck of the genetic draw. Most important, however, the assumption that if a choice is involved, a separate set of rules must be applied. Murder or manslaughter.

In the end, little more than a fear of choice, or actually, a fear of what choice entails, which is responsibility. Responsibility for who you are. A heavy load.

The fellow who, desperate for some reconciliation between what he feels and what he believes, between the dictates of his god and the conflicting proclivities of Mr. John Henry, decides that he likes the notion that homosexuality has a physiological basis, thereby excusing himself from judgment.

Galloping herds of logical fallacies leave behind lots and lots of fertilizer.

Ultimately, a denial of our right to self-determination, to say this is who I am (whyever

I might be this) and this is who I want to be and this is who I'm going to be. A belief that claiming one's true identity carries a price tag. That something vital has to be sacrificed, some freedom cashed in, for self-knowledge and expression.

Whatever idiot cobbles together an ideology or ethical code where choice becomes a liability where one's identity is acceptable only if it's somehow predetermined, damns him or herself in the process.

And we do it to ourselves.

A post-op transie moves into an apartment complex where most of the other occupants are pre-op (and likely to stay that way) and she's baited with catcalls of "plastic pussy."

Or a support group of gender dysphorics decides to exclude anyone who won't readily accept the term "transsexual," who won't describe themselves as a "woman trapped in a man's body" or vice versa, anyone who isn't on the happy road to surgery, because they want to keep out the drag queens and transvestites. Because, down in the pit, where lives are lived and claws and teeth and politics are welded, choice is not enough, not acceptable in and of itself as a proper justification for behavior. Because we value what we each as individuals happen to want, what's best for each greedy little personal agenda, instead of valuing individuality on its own merits. The party line about diversity is a smoke-screen, because we're all afraid of the dark, of the vast *terra incognita* of human possibility.

We're here, we're queer, and if we expect the fucking breeders who pass unconstitutional amendments to their states' constitutions to keep us from getting a marriage license, or adopting, or teaching public school, or just about anything else that might risk contamination of their Puritanical little worlds, to ever get used to it, we damned well better get used to it ourselves.

All the way used to it. ▼

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Darlene/PhotoGraphics,
Jane Cleland, Rick Gerharter
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Robert Hold, Linda Kilduff
TYPESETTER
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LEGAL COUNSEL

Thomas E. Horn, Esq.
AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT
Chas Wesdell

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dianne Aaronson, Rene M. Astudillo,
Noreen C. Barnes, John Blanco,
Michael C. Botkin, Nancy Boutilier,
Philip Campbell, Dennis Conkin,
Jim Coughenour, M.R. Covino,
Tim Farrell, Michael Flanagan,
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POLITICAL EDITOR
Wayne Friday

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Letters

Happy in Billville

In your Aug. 19 editorial, you've joined ranks with those who are obsessively searching for every possible reason to rail against Bill Clinton. Anybody with 2 cents worth of gray matter knows that politics is not a neat, tidy business and that even the noblest of politicians are often forced to make difficult compromises.

Instead of stirring up a negative cyclone of opinion against Bill Clinton, it would be a lot more constructive to recognize his accomplishments and to continue to work with him toward the kind of goals he promised in his campaign. He has already done a lot. Other things will take more time. Reagan and Bush had come within inches of depriving women the right to reproductive choice. Clinton has firmly established that right. Reagan and Bush bankrupted the country with policies that wasted billions of tax dollars on useless military programs and poured additional billions into private pockets. Clinton is taking the difficult and costly steps toward saving this country from financial ruin — and at great risk, politically. Robert Achtenberg would most definitely not be in Washington if the White House had wavered during her confirmation.

When in the past 12 years have we had an Attorney General with the kind of moral courage Janet Reno embodies? George Bush gave us Clarence Thomas. Clinton has already given us Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She is in a crucial position to protect all human rights. Now, to replace Colin Powell, Clinton has nominated a general who sees no problem with letting gays serve in the military.

It seems perfectly clear how Bill Clinton intends to accomplish the things he can't get by confrontation with Congress. Yet, there are still a lot of gays running around like three-year olds, throwing tantrums because they can't have exactly what they want immediately. Those who lament having voted for Clinton can go back to the "good old days" under George Bush. I will not be joining them.

Arthur Hills
Santa Rosa

It's Veto Power, Stupid!

The following letter was sent to President Bill Clinton, The White House, Washington, D.C.:

The current military appropriations bill, as passed by the U.S. Senate, unconstitutionally encroaches upon the president and commander-in-chief. It attempts to legislate on matters which are within the exclusive purview of the commander-in-chief, and not within the purview of Congress.

This issue goes far beyond the merits of whether gay men and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military, and under what conditions. The fundamental question is whether Congress can encroach upon the authority of the commander-in-chief to set policy and manage the affairs and conduct of the nation's military services. This legislation constitutes nothing less than a coup by Congress, with dire constitutional implications.

Every past president has scrupulously guarded the prerogatives of his office. One may cite Jackson's struggles concerning the National Bank, the controversies surrounding Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus, the development of the doctrine of executive privilege, and the position that Nixon and his successors have taken with respect to the War Powers Act.

If your fail to veto any legislation which encroaches upon your authority to establish internal military policy, you will countenance an unprecedented and unconstitutional shift in power from the Executive to the Legislative branch of government. And you may be quite sure that this will be only the beginning of the assertion of congressional power in areas traditionally within the discretion of the president.

Your veto will establish a fine and important constitutional point. And it will force Congress to pass a military appropriations bill that deals with military appropriations — and nothing else. Which is as it should be.

Terry D. Oehler
Oakland, CA

Write to 'B.A.R.'

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters to the editor.

Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

We prefer that letters be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten letters will be considered for publication only if clearly legible.

Letters may be edited for length or other appropriate considerations. B.A.R. reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

Bernhard-ass

Please allow me to vent. I have recently had the dubious pleasure of attending Basset Book's book signing by Sandra Bernhard to promote her latest foray into the world of literature. I have, for the last almost 10 years, been a great admirer of Sandra. Her courage and style have always fascinated me; I almost found her inspirational. Honestly, at times I did.

So there I was at San Francisco Centre, the Temple of Tourism. I was second in line and had not really minded the three-hour wait. During the half hour that preceded Sandra's arrival, the excitability of the crowd was surfacing. Bernhardtisms were spewing forth, some with no direction. People were actually expecting her to respond to the most vulgar of comments. Why? This was an appearance at a book store, not a performance at the Warfield.

The very nice people at Basset gave each of us "Post-Its" to attach to the page she was to sign with our names on it and maybe a message we would have liked for Sandra to inscribe along with her signature. The moment then came.

I saw Sandra enter from the 5th St. entrance to the centre. She didn't look happy. She looked great, but not pleased about something. She sat at the signing table and proceeded to bitch about the pen they had for her use. She used it anyway. She should have brought her own. It's not brain surgery, honey!

Upon letting the first 10 fans in, she looked up at us and then looked down, no smile, no acknowledgement, almost a cold look. Upon approaching her, she made no eye contact and just blurted out she was only going to sign her name.

I said, "Hi Sandra," she said nothing and had almost a look of disgust on her face. She signed the book and then slid it across the table to me, still no smile. I felt angry, hurt and betrayed all at once. I know she's a celebrity, but I still wanted to throw the book right at her very large nose, which is only dwarfed by her ego. She killed close to 10 years of admiration in a mere five seconds. I don't know if I could ever feel the same, and I'm only telling you my personal experience, which, unfortunately, was shared by many others in line that day.

Why did she bother? Why did I bother? I'm returning the book.

Michael Cadigan
San Francisco

Isaak = I Suck

I would like to report derogatory remarks about K.D. Lang's being gay which were made by Chris Isaak in front of an audience of 20,000 people at the Tina Turner concert at Shoreline Amphitheatre on Saturday, Sept. 11.

During a rambling, supposedly comedic monologue, he referred to "someone in a hotel room, naked, looking manly and hirsute, it was K.D. Lang."

A minute later in the monologue, he was talking about "a man's loving," and again referring to K.D. Lang, said, "She didn't get any, she didn't want any," in a very derogatory tone.

Aside from these homophobic and stupid remarks, he twice insulted the people in the audience who had lawn seats saying in effect that they were cheapseats for having bought the cheap seats.

In any case, it occurred to me that Tina Turner, who probably did not hear Isaak's remarks, would never support a personal attack on K.D. Lang for being a lesbian. Furthermore, K.D. Lang, if she had been there to defend herself, probably would have mopped up the floor with the homophobic Isaak.

Jerry Berbiar
San Francisco

Vampirical Empirical

Lestat is over 6 feet tall.
Lestat is blonde.
Lestat is sensual.
Lestat is not sexual.
Lestat exudes animal sex.
Cruise is none of the above.
Cruise is not Lestat.
I'll not attend the movie.

Jim Shaw
San Francisco

Praising the Pepper

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel Pepper and the B.A.R. for the very honest, factual and flattering article she wrote on my "Cruisin' the Castro" walking tour.

With so many negative things going on in our world, I was very grateful to have such a thorough, correct and sensitive account of my endeavors to keep our lesbian/gay legacy, history and culture alive, well and positive.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to Rachel Pepper and the Bay Area Reporter for a job well done.

Trevor Hailey
San Francisco

Mayoral Rumors Aplenty

If you get two or more political activists, office-holders, and/or political groupies in the same room or at the same fundraiser these days, the talk almost certainly turns to mayoral possibilities, i.e., who is running against Frank Jordan (perhaps the better question would be "who isn't running?"); is the mayor in fact going to seek re-election or retire; could Quentin Kopp, once a Jordan ally, really support Assemblyman John Burton; is Angela Alioto truly to be taken seriously; is Carole Migden, assuming she is safely re-elected next year, the first homosexual to become a 'real' mayoral candidate; and what happens to onetime party-heir Kevin Shelley if Burton runs?

Add to these possibilities the fact that former Police Commissioner Lou Giraudo was overheard telling waiters at Original Joe's recently that he plans to run, as well as the fact that perhaps three or four other fairly well known San Franciscans are balefully looking at Room 200, and you have rumors aplenty.

The latest one that I heard this week (from a usually reliable source) is that Carole Migden, expected to become Board of Supes President



Supes Angela Alioto and Carole Migden with an eye to the future.

the streets as a teenager, "saved" his life and helped him launch what has become a successful career. (It may have been a bit long, perhaps, but it was a moving story that brought the place to a hush).

Respected Filipino community leader and current Community College Board member Rodel Rodis is being urged by many to seek the Democratic nomination next June for the state senate seat now being held by "Independent" Quentin Kopp.

Anti-gay General Colin Powell, retiring this week as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apparently fancies himself as the current-day Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower; Powell, who helped kill President Clinton's plan to allow openly gay and lesbians military personnel to serve their country, was telling reporters this week that "I have no political plans at this time, but after I retire I will take a look at what's around the corner." Translation: this guy will run for office and actually thinks he could be accepted by the American public as another Eisenhower war-hero type. Get a grip, General — it doesn't matter how many stars you are wearing, how many books you sell, (he just signed a \$2 million book deal) or which party finally gets you to run, you are still a homophobe and all the retirement testimonials you orchestrate cannot change that. Besides, we already have too many bigoted homophobes in public office.

Sign me up as an early supporter for Tony Miller, the chief Deputy to Secretary of State March Fong Eu, to replace her as the Demo nominee next year for the job he has practically done for years anyway.

Politics and People

There was a lot of quick last-minute seat-changing at the big Masonic Auditorium Gala for Reverend Cecil Williams last Thursday when former Supervisor Jim Gonzalez realized that the seats for him and his wife were right next to Supervisor Bill Maher and his date; Gonzo refused to sit next to Maher and it took some fast changing by the diplomatic former Mayor Art Agnos and his wife to avert an embarrassing (and amusing) political disaster. As for the evening for Reverend Cecil, he was indeed the star of the night, but two other Williamses (comics Robin and Danny Williams) were clearly the highlights, especially when Danny related how it was Glide that took him off

Louise Renne October 15th (\$100; 495-0368 for info.)

In Nashville, six gay men and two lesbians — two under assumed names — have gone to court to challenge Tennessee's ban against homosexual acts, arguing they could lose their jobs, professional licenses and homes if prosecuted under the current law.

Supervisor Carole Migden is pushing hard for her Prop. C November ballot measure that would extend the one-half cent city sales tax beyond its scheduled expiration on December 31st; Migden points out that even if it passes, Prop. C won't take effect if the statewide sales tax extension, Prop. 172, passes.

When I asked state senate candidate Tom Campbell the other evening how it was he could trash Bruce Herschensohn, his U. S. Senate opponent in last year's GOP primary, (he called Herschensohn a liar, not trustworthy, etc.), only to openly embrace him the day after the primary as one of the state's "best and most honorable men," he flashed his sugary political smile and replied "if the situation were reversed, I would have wanted him to do the same for me." Tom Campbell: a typical politician? Of course, but at that, I still think he will be a good state senator and will win easily in the 11th peninsula district on November 2nd — and he's one of the very few Republicans I would urge you to vote for.

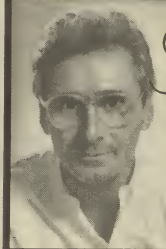
Actor Raymond Burr, who lived for years with his longtime lover on a wine ranch in Sonoma County before he passed on recently, had a number of good friends in the community here. He will be missed.

President Clinton has the opportunity to appoint some very talented gay and/or lesbian attorneys to the Federal bench in California and let's hope he does just that — soon.

Some loudmouth in a Castro Street bar approached me last weekend and demanded to know how one could possibly (I assumed he meant me) "have anything good to say" about three such "different people as Dianne Feinstein, Art Agnos, and Frank Jordan." It's simple, I don't agree with any of them all the time, but I know all three to be decent, honest, caring, and good human beings; so, take it or leave it.

Say it isn't so — former Palm Springs mayor Sonny Bono (no friend of gays, incidentally) was reportedly

(Continued on page 13)



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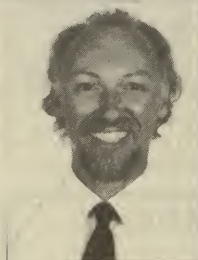
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The Outer Limit

Committmentality

by Rachel Pepper

The first few times I saw her, I didn't think that she was for me. With her green eyes and orange fur, she was pretty, but not my usual type. And so skinny! One would think she'd never had a decent meal in her life. Talkative, too, hardly letting me get a word in edgewise, and so unabashedly affectionate I felt a bit overwhelmed. Yet despite my initial lack of interest, this gal wouldn't take no for an answer. It was as if she had claimed me for her own, and set out to make me love her every way she could. And lo and behold, it worked. Within a month's time, she'd wormed her furry little way into my heart.

How many of us have been claimed by an animal who's appeared from Goddess-knows-where? Followed home by a stray dog, or visit-



Sister X, who would have loved the disturbance.

Commentary

ed by a pregnant cat who proceeds to give you the gift of a litter? The more I tell people about Timmi, the more stories I hear about finding the dog by the side of the road, the kitten under the porch, or the bird who flew in the window. In my case, Timmi was just suddenly there one day at the back door when I'd take out the trash, weaving around my legs, a fast moving flash of bright tortoise-shell, meowing at the top of her lungs. It was as if she were not screaming out so much for food as she was trying to say, "Look at me! See me, and save me!"

Of course, she was starving, as her scrawny frame and bony rib cage indicated. And young, no more than a year old at most. Big sucker which I am, I thought I'd just set out some food for her once in a while and that'd be it. Ha! What a fool I was! Soon I started to open the back door just to look for her, and when she'd see me peering down from the porch, she'd meow out a greeting and run right up the two flights of stairs. The weekly feedings turned into daily ones, and sometimes when I opened the door she'd be sitting there, looking trustingly right up into my eyes as if to say, "What ever took you so long?"

Now this arrangement may have continued indefinitely if it weren't for Timmi herself. Not content to simply park outside the door any longer, she'd march right in the house after me when I'd try to leave her, meowing at the top of her little kitty lungs, tail stuck straight up in the air, announcing her intention to stay. Needless to say,

our other two cats found this a bit disconcerting, but I for one was falling in love.

Now, such shameless devotion always gets me in the end. A few days later I was walking into the SPCA, telling the vet I wanted to get Timmi her shots and have her fixed so I could find her a home. By the time I'd walked out of there, Timmi somehow had a brand new collar on, complete with ID tag announcing for all the world to see that she was mine. Or was I hers? Who'd claimed who here, anyway?

I've been thinking a lot about love recently, and the responsibilities it brings. Much of this is due to the fact that my lover's moved in, and most evenings, I'd rather be nestled at home with her and the cats than expending lots of time and energy out being fabulous. But part of me still feels like I should. So despite the fact that I'm no longer so easily entranced by spectacular parties, I still go to fun events like the *Surface Magazine* release "do," and laugh at Joan Jett Blakk hosting *The Dating Game* for *Girlfriend Magazine*, and help Stormy Leather celebrate their 10th anniversary by hooting at the incredible leather fashion show they presented. But my heart's been only half there, each time.

On Saturday, I stood captivated at the corner of Castro and Market, as members of the Sisters of Perpetual

Indulgence and assorted activists took the street to commemorate Sister X, who recently died of AIDS. It's been so long since there was a semi-spontaneous demonstration in the Castro, and I wondered how people would react. As the activists chanted and joined hands to block traffic, several boxes, marked with a crossed out red ribbon and the words "AIDS is not a fashion statement" were set on fire. Bits of ash blew toward me and brushed my face, and I was as mesmerized by them as I was by the group's collective anger, a shared rage that took me back briefly to my own activist days.

At one point, a lone car, a blue vintage Plymouth driven by two young well-dressed gay men, insisted on trying to cut through the demonstration. Because I was standing right at the corner, I tried to explain: it was a memorial, it was a celebration of a gay man's life, it was about AIDS. "We have to get through," one said to me out the car window, honking impatiently. He looked bitterly at the crowd before him, and spat out, "We have jobs, you know!"

"I do too," I said, then asked, "But do you have any empathy?" Empathy for a gay man, like themselves, now dead from AIDS. And they call us a community?

My editors suggested that I write about sex this week,

(Continued on page 27)

A gay in the life. by John Sieruta ©1993



Community News



Luscious in latex: Three of the super models at Stormy Leather's tenth anniversary party and fashion extravaganza.

(Photo: Phyllis Christopher)

AllLatex Women's Cancer Resource Center Benefit Action:

New Fashions at Stormy Leather Show

by Shar Rednour

A small number of suited business men (yes, fortysomething business men in boring suits) and simple-haired, simply made-up sweater-clad women stood in line Wednesday, September 22, to get into Stormy Leather's tenth anniversary party and fashion show at Club Townsend—but the majority of partygoers had lace, latex, chains, or leather collars peeking out from coats.

Inside, once the coats were shed, latex-clad fetishized flesh emerged. Latex fashion fans had come to show their respect for the latex-positive scene, to admire the new Stormy Leather fashions, and in some cases, to show off their latest purchases.

About 750 people attended the party, which was also a benefit for the Women's Cancer Resource Center. The party and raffle raised almost \$4,000, according to Stormy Leather Manager Jenne Blade.

The crowd contained a who's who of San Francisco's sex elite, all in their best fetish fashions: sex educator/performer/writer Carol Queen, *Future Sex* editor Lisa Palac, icon Joani Blank, an entire Good Vibrations entourage, Dyke Daddies past, present, and future, *Drummer* boys galore, and the creme de la creme of this city's contempo-

rary sex-scene celebrities.

Author Susie Bright introduced Stormy Leather manager Blade (a Diva in a strapless latex dress with a netting ruffle bottom and netting wrap) to begin the Stormy Leather Fashion Show.

The audience begs for it

Blade demanded the audience beg for it — "Yes! More! Now!" They needed a little reprimanding and encouraging from Bright, but they got the spirit and delivered "Yes! More! Now!" with increasing enthusiasm. The lights went down, a remixed rave version of "Stormy Weather" filled the club, and dry ice fogged the stage. DJ Stephanie kept the beat going as the fashion show began.

Leather bustiers, mini-dresses, full length skirts, and bras were fastened with more than leather laces this year: buckles and elastic eroticized every connection. Latex came in colors from teal and gold to blood red and charcoal gray. Models wore latex pants, shorts, gloves, panties—everything! And the basic tank dresses were recreated with tuxedo stripes and shown off with clear vinyl rain coats.

Clear vinyl and netting added fun looks to the classics. KMS salon hair stylists created flawless hair on the models including beehives, tortured Eva Gabor-style curly confections, and sleek definitions.

The show, choreographed by Tina Kulz, brilliantly showed off the variety of Stormy's best. The models, local latex-loving men and women who'd auditioned for their roles, were superb. A large part of the show featured a man in a shimmering black lycra body bag, who was led on stage by a dominatrix and was left mid-stage to be spanked, whipped, fondled, slinked on, and caressed by model after model. Audience gasps of amazement filled the air. The clothes got more elaborate and incredible as the show wore on.

"God, just when I thought I couldn't sweat another drop they come out with this!" an

excited spectator was heard to exclaim during the fashion show finale: tall brunette model Rita wore a teal and gold full length latex long-sleeved backless dress designed especially for the fashion show. The dress, amazingly enough, had a train, which many latex lovers know is a rarity.

The dress was so stunning this reporter knew exactly what she'd wear to her own gay wedding if Hawaii makes it legal. Obviously, most of the other women — and a lot of the men — had the same idea. ▼



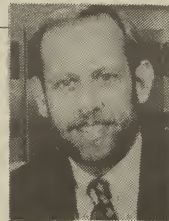
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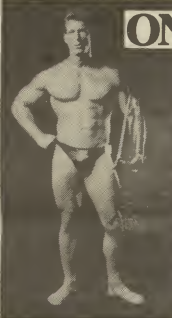


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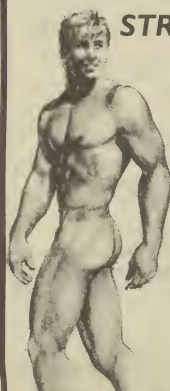
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BAY AREA REPORTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1993 PAGE 12

National News

Meinhold

(Continued from page 1)

circuit to a nationwide scope.
"It must be obeyed until ei-
ther stayed or overturned by
a higher court," said Mein-
hold's attorney John McGuire.

Hatter also ordered that
Meinhold be reinstated as a
sonar analyst. The Navy
obeyed the initial letter of the
ruling by reinstating Mein-
hold to his former duty. But it
also undermined its spirit by
laying technical groundwork
to effectively discharge him
for other reasons.

McGuire said the Navy
had denied the petty officer a
promotion that he had rou-
tinely received. Furthermore,
the Navy was now manipulat-
ing Meinhold's performance
reviews to give him failing
grades in such areas as "per-
sonal conduct" and "supports
Navy policy."

"In each instance the grader
said that he [Meinhold] has
been outstanding in every
way, but the grader was re-
quired to fail him in those cat-
egories because he is gay and
that 'lifestyle' is inconsistent
with Navy policy," said
McGuire. There are also second-
hand reports that the grader
was told by superiors to fail
Meinhold in those categories.

"One thing you have to say
to the Navy's credit," contin-
ued McGuire, "is that it has a
lot of people lower down on
the food chain who have a lot
of integrity, and who are
Meinhold's friends, and who
have been working with him
for years. So when you read
the comments on these things
they are extremely sympa-
thetic."

DoD took two actions in
early September: it began to
transfer to "standby reserve
status" those people in the
military who had declared
their homosexuality but had
been in a legal limbo under
conditions of the ostensible
compromise President Clinton
and Senator Nunn had
worked out in January.

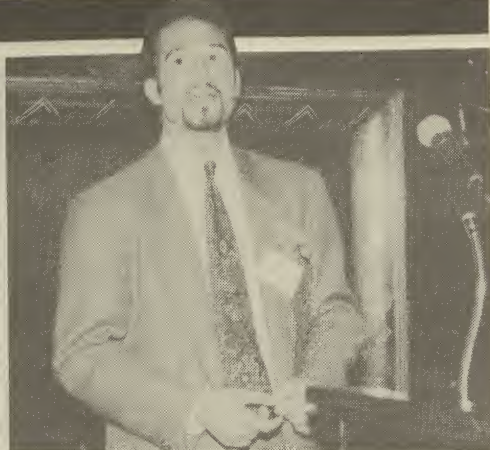
McGuire felt this was "ex-
actly like a discharge ... kick-
ing people out of their jobs so
they have no pay, no position,
receive no benefits." And
since that was exactly what
the judge's order prohibited,
McGuire filed contempt pa-
pers.

DoD also appealed Hatter's
January decision, asking
for a hearing by the entire 9th
Circuit Court of Appeals, in
light of the "new" policy of
gays in the military. That re-
quest was denied without
comment on September 21.

Hatter responded to
McGuire's latest petition on
September 22. He issued the
call for DoD officials to ap-
pear before him for the con-
tempt hearing on September
30, one day before the "new"
military ban policy is sched-
uled to go into effect.

A Pentagon spokesman
quickly responded that Aspin
himself would not appear but
would send a "non-legal rep-
resentative" as the court al-
lowed. McGuire pointed out
that the representative must
be of a senior level, someone
with "the authority to make
oral guarantees" of changes
that would bring DoD into
compliance with Hatter's or-
der.

McGuire believes action
will be swift, with Hatter like-
ly to follow past practice and
issue his ruling from the
bench on the day of the hear-
ing. The fact that the "new"



Keith Meinhold's attorney John McGuire at a recent Lambda
event. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

DoD policy on the military
ban is supposed to go into ef-
fect the following day also
points to the likelihood of a
quick ruling from Hatter. The
ruling is not likely to be fa-
vorable to DoD.

The government seems
likely to file an emergency ap-
peal to the entire 9th Circuit
Court to prohibit enforcement
of Hatter's order. The brief
would be virtually identical to
the one DoD filed and the
Court denied without expla-
nation earlier in the month.

The next step would be to
file an emergency writ with
the U.S. Supreme Court. Jus-
tice Sandra Day O'Connor re-
views all appeals from the 9th
Circuit. She would have to
find that there was "clear er-
ror" by a lower court, and "ir-
reparable harm" caused by
the injunction in order to lift
it, according to McGuire.

**Clinton
administration
lawyers cited
two articles by
Paul Cameron,
the notoriously
homophobic
former
psychologist
who was
expelled from
the A.P.A.
for breach
of ethics.**

Meanwhile, Joe Steffan...

The Steffan case is techni-
cally further along in the legal
system. Unlike Meinhold,
Steffan lost at the first level
and is now seeking to have
that ruling overturned at the
appeals level.

Oral arguments were
heard before the U.S. Court
of Appeals for the District of
Columbia Circuit on Septem-
ber 13. The three judge panel,
selected randomly, included
Chief Judge Abner J. Mikva,
Patricia M. Wald, and Harry
T. Edwards, perhaps the
most liberal panel possible on
a generally conservative
court.

Clinton administration
lawyers argued the same ra-
tionale for excluding homo-
sexuals as had the Bush ad-
ministration. They even cited
two articles by Paul Cam-
eron, the notoriously homo-
phobic former psychologist

who was expelled from the
American Psychologists Asso-
ciation for breach of ethics.

"We had a panel who, I be-
lieve, understood the issues.
Their questions of both our
side and the government at-
torney really showed that,"
said Kevin Cathcart, execu-
tive director of the Lambda
Legal Defense and Education
Fund, the lead group in Stef-
fan's defense.

Cathcart paraphrased dia-
logue that he said was among
the high points of the argu-
ments, when Edwards was
questioning the government
attorney:

Edwards: You're saying
that under the regulation, if
someone says they are gay but
they never have sex, you
throw them out.

Govt. Atty: Yes, that's true.

Edwards: But if they have
sex with someone of the same
sex, but they tell you they are
not gay, you can keep them in.

Govt. Atty: Yes, that's true.

Then Edwards leaned
back in his chair, crossed his
arms, and said with a some-
what cynical tone, "Well, that
makes a lot of sense to me."

Wald appended to the end
of one of her questions the
fact that many of the mem-
bers of that court do hire gay
law clerks.

Cathcart reads such com-
ments, and the basic strength
of the case, as encouraging
signs for a favorable ruling.
The court generally takes 30-
90 days to issue an opinion.
He does not see how a ruling
on the Steffan case, under the
"old" policy banning gays in
the military, would not apply
as well to the "new" policy,
since the arguments used in
both the Steffan and Mein-
hold cases are constitutional
ones.

He feels that the bungled
attempt by President Clinton
and Congress to find a politi-
cal resolution to the issue has
only improved its chances in
court.

"What the military has had
to do with this case all along,
to justify their policy, is exag-
gerate and overstate the ho-
mophobia of people in the
service. Their argument only
makes sense if you agree that
the military is overrun by big-
ots and will fall apart in the
face of reality," said Cathcart.

This year's debate on the
issue has largely undercut
that position. The President,
the Chairman of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff, and virtually
everyone else has publicly
stated the obvious: that many
lesbians and gay serve and
have served in the military
and have done so with distin-
ction.

These legal challenges will
let them do that openly and
proudly. ▼

House

(Continued from page 1)

this country and in this Congress what I call homophobia," Gunderson said. "I suggest the real reason is not prejudice based on hate, but rather what I refer to as homo-ignorance."

"Gays and lesbians are like everyone else."

Another Republican House member, California's Robert Dornan, was cautioned by the presiding officer not to allude to old House disciplinary actions against Representatives Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, both of Massachusetts, and both openly gay men, resulting from their past gay activities.

"The jury will disregard my remarks, but I know they can't forget them," Dornan said.

Peri Jude Radevic, Executive Director-designee of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said in a press release, "The votes in favor of the Meehan amendment in the House and the Boxer amendment in the Senate are encouraging, in spite of opposition from the White House and vigorous opposition from the Pentagon."

According to NGLTF, the 169 votes against codification indicate a solid base of support in Congress for ending discrimination.

The military ban issue has been in the forefront of the news since Clinton's pre-election promise to sign an executive order banning all discrimination in federal governmental hiring. Because that

would include the military, right wing forces focused attention on matters such as the proximity of submarine bunks and open showers. The Pentagon also spent over \$1 million on a study to determine if lesbians and gays were unsuitable soldiers. When the study reported there was no compelling reason for exclusion, Nunn attempted to squelch it. But even when after the report was released, Nunn continued to lobby hard for codification of the discriminatory ban.

The Senate voted last week to codify the ban against lesbians and gay men in the armed services. If Clinton signs the DoD bill as expected, the law will be virtually identical to the military's policy for the past 50 years.

Although the House action was a setback to lesbian and gay equality, the issue is far from over. Now it will move into the judicial arena as lawsuits brought by gay and lesbian servicemembers, including Keith Meinhold and Joseph Steffan, are considered. [See story, Page 1.] Legal experts say there is a better chance of overturning the ban in the courts than in Congress. ▼

'The Kind of Decency We Want Government To Extend': Another City Okays Domestic Partners

United Press International

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Austin has become the first city in Texas to extend spousal benefits to the partners of unmarried city employees, including gay and lesbian couples.

The City Council adopted the new policy late Thursday, September 2, on a 5-2 vote following a three-hour public hearing on the controversial proposal. The personnel change will become effective January 1.

Council member Brigid Shea, who voted for the policy, said, "It's the kind of decency we want government to extend, at least to its own employees."

Under the policy, the domestic partners of unmarried city employees will be eligi-

ble for the same benefits that are currently available to the spouses of married employees, such as health insurance, use of sick leave and personal leave.

It was estimated that 472 of the city's more than 10,000 employees would register a domestic partner under the new policy.

Opponents of the plan argued that it would cost too much and promote immorality, while supporters said it was an issue of fairness.

Bob Brister of the Austin Peace and Justice Coalition said, "We regard this as a basic human rights issue. Families, whether traditional or not, are entitled to equal benefits."

More than 120 people signed up to speak at the hearing, with about two-

thirds supporting the proposal. Many people in attendance wore pink triangle badges proclaiming that "I support domestic partnership."

But so-called christian activist Mark Weaver told the council it was "sending the wrong message to the community about the responsibility and respectability of marriage." He said the message to teenagers is that "It's okay to shack up."

Austin is the first city in Texas to adopt such a policy, which could cost the city about \$705,000 in additional medical payments in the first year.

Council member Ronnie Reynolds voted against the policy, saying he was concerned about the cost but not about the lifestyle issue. ▼

Friday

(Continued from page 9)

telling Sacramento friends that he will seek the GOP nomination for Lieutenant Governor next year; incumbent Leo McCarthy is retiring at the end of his current term.

Hadley Roff, one of the best-liked public servants anywhere, and a longtime aide to Dianne Feinstein, just announced that he will re-join the Senator's staff, so the job as an administrator in the regional office of the Department of Labor he had been expected to take under President Clinton (and one of the better-paying, higher level political appointments in the state) will likely now go to Rick Sawyer, the business manager of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council.

Poor Pat (Ha!): finding that former presidential candidate Pat Robertson used public funds to defray unqualified campaign expenses, as well as overbilling the news media for air travel, the Federal Election Commission last week ordered the homophobic religious broadcaster to pay back \$400,000 in disputed expenditures from his failed, hate-filled, anti-gay, anti-choice 1988 presidential campaign; I guess it wasn't enough that the bigot Robertson actually received about \$10.4 million in federal matching funds during his GOP presidential bid during that year; as it was, the guy had to fudge yet another near half-million. (Get those collection plates out real fast, Pat.)

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National News

Oregon Gays Lose to OCA Bigots

by Inga Sorensen

The Oregon Citizens Alliance is celebrating a clean sweep at the ballot box. Six cities and one county approved anti-lesbian/gay rights measures during the September 21 special elections. Despite a new state law that prohibits enforcement of such measures, OCA backers say they're thrilled by the election results, which included a 77-23 percent victory in the timber town of Sweet Home.

"This will build momentum, without question," said an exuberant Lon Mabon, chairman of the conservative group. "This shows that the middle voters changed their opinion."

Voters in Creswell, Estacada, Lebanon, Medford, Molalla, Sweet Home, and Jackson County overwhelmingly approved the local anti-gay/lesbian rights measure. Each of those localities gave a thumbs up to Ballot Measure 9, an OCA-sponsored statewide initiative that sought to declare homosexuality "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and per-

verse." Although Oregonians rejected Measure 9 last November by a 56-44 percent vote, the extreme proposal passed in 21 of the state's 36 counties.

The OCA is sponsoring a watered-down version of Measure 9 (similar to the recently passed local initiatives) poised for the November 1994 state ballot. Mabon and his allies believe they will be successful, and maintain the latest election figures are clear indicators of a pending statewide victory. Specifically, they point to their success in Estacada, where voters passed Measure 9 by a 458-456 vote; this time, they approved the local measure by a vote of 349-292.

"I don't think we've lost support," contends Julie Davis, executive director of the Support Our Communities political action committee. SOC PAC, which was formed to battle the local initiatives, is making the transition into the central campaign whose primary responsibility will be to keep the new statewide measure from passing. "People who are on our side are apathetic. Many folks simply don't want to deal with this issue any more. Unfortunately, that lack of motivation doesn't appear to exist among the OCA's supporters. If we don't do something to motivate our voters, we'll lose in 1994."

Davis believes the OCA is misleading, and "confusing" voters.

"People think gays and lesbians want 'special rights.' They think that gays and lesbians are already allowed to marry," she said. "They believe gays and lesbians already have a right to sue if they lose their jobs or homes due to their sexual orientation. The OCA doesn't do anything to inform citizens that lesbians and gay men don't have these basic civil rights that most people enjoy. It's no wonder that people think lesbians and gays want 'special rights' since they already believe that gays have basic rights."

The proposed measure bans local governments from granting "minority status" to lesbians and gay men, and forbids localities from spending public funds to "promote or express approval of homosexual behavior." Eight cities and counties approved similar measures during special elections held in May and June. Many of the targeted communities are small — if not struggling — timber and farming towns whose populations are relatively homogeneous white middle/lower-middle class. The current election results break down as follows:

•Creswell: Local initiative passes, 59-41 percent; Measure 9 passes, 61-39 percent.

•Estacada: Local initiative passes, 55-45 percent; Measure 9 passes, 50-50 percent (passes by two votes).

•Jackson County: Local initiative passes, 65-35 percent; Measure 9 passes, 50-50 percent (passes by 45 votes).

•Lebanon: Local initiative passes, 65-35 percent; Measure 9 passes, 51-49 percent.

•Medford: Local initiative passes, 59-41 percent; Measure 9 passes, 51-49 percent.

•Molalla: Local initiative passes, 55-45 percent; Measure 9 passes, 60-40 percent.

•Sweet Home: Local initiative passes, 77-23 percent; Measure 9 passes, 69-31 percent.

"We clearly have our work cut out for us," says Davis, who adds SOC PAC has raised an estimated \$175,000 to fight the OCA. About 100 volunteers have been canvassing and operating phone banks across the state. "We're trying not to get discouraged. We knew the OCA was going to win these local elections. It was and continues to be an uphill battle for us. The good news is we have been building coalitions and networking in smaller communities across Oregon. These networks,

**Unfortunately,
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which were not developed during the No on 9 campaign, will undoubtedly help us as we fight against the statewide initiative."

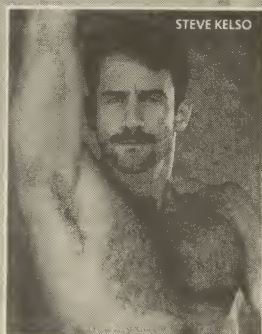
Several weeks ago, Oregon lawmakers approved House Bill 3500, which bars local governments from enforcing laws that "single out" individuals or groups based on sexual orientation. The bill was designed to give Oregonians a "cooling-off period" with respect to the lesbian/gay rights controversy. The OCA is challenging the constitutionality of that law in court. Officials representing two cities—Canby and Cornelius—have signed court orders stating they will not enforce their previously approved anti-gay/lesbian rights measures due to HB3500. County commissioners in Linn and Douglas counties have passed resolutions stating the same.

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has filed suit challenging the OCA's local initiatives. The ACLU is also working to stop resident in Oregon City and Keizer from voting on local anti-gay rights measures in November. The Oregon Court of Appeals will hear arguments on the ACLU lawsuit on September 30. ▼

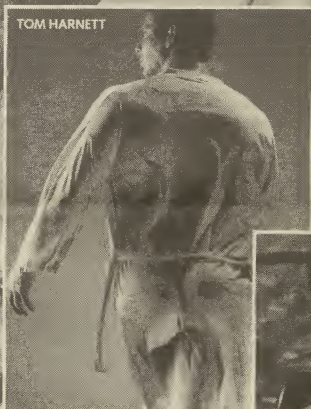
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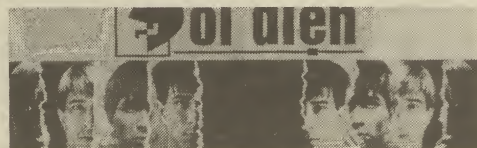
National News

Gay and Lesbian Vietnamese Have a Magazine of Their Own

by Rene M. Astudillo

Doi Dien ("Face to Face") is a national magazine for Vietnamese lesbians and gays — and much more. As editor Tuan Le of San Jose puts it, "We want the magazine to capture the thoughts and feelings, rather than the behavior, of the Vietnamese gay community, which has been oppressed for thousands of years."

Doi Dien's premiere issue consists of 76 pages of bilingual (Vietnamese and English) essays, short stories, poems, interviews, and an impressive photographic portfolio, an example of which



Doi Dien (Face to Face), for Vietnamese lesbians and gays, comes out of San Jose and is available at A Different Light Bookstore in the Castro.

graces the cover of the journal format. Its authors are a mix of seasoned and well-known Vietnamese writers, as well as contributors who are writing literary pieces for the first time.

While Le hesitates to call *Doi Dien* a "coming out" magazine, he was quite proud to point out that one of the premiere issue's articles was an interview with Ho Truong An, a Vietnamese novelist whose works have been best-sellers both in Vietnam and here in the U.S. It is the first time that Truong An has gone public about being gay.

Le also told the B.A.R. that it is the magazine's goal to be able to look back to Vietnamese history and recognize the lives, contributions, and works of lesbian and gay personalities. Le, who comes from a family of writers, thought it was interesting to find out that many previously published Vietnamese literary pieces had, in fact, homosexual themes and undertones. "Because of the repressive regimes in Vietnam," he added, "homosexuality has practically been dismissed as non-existent."

Doi Dien was first conceived in February this year by a group of Vietnamese individuals and organizations from San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Orange County. Among its many purposes is to identify problematic societal perceptions toward gays, lesbians and bisexuals, including the perception of mainstream Vietnamese society that "homosexuality and bisexuality were the products of the American culture."

The magazine's circulation is not limited to Vietnamese communities in the U.S., but also in Australia, France, Canada, and Vietnam.

"Distribution of the magazine in Vietnam is still done underground," Le says, because even to this day, one can get arrested for being gay or for possession of gay materials. Despite its limited and difficult means of circulation in Vietnam, Le takes great consolation in knowing that for Vietnamese lesbians and gays who cannot be open about their homosexuality, *Doi Dien* will provide them the resource to validate their own feelings and lessen the danger of internalized homophobia.

Since the magazine came off the press, reactions from both the gay and mainstream Vietnamese communities have been very enthusiastic and supportive. Le attributes the mainstream community's support to the fact that many of the magazine's writers are famous personalities whose works have always been taken very seriously. One contributor to the premiere issue, Tran Sa, is editor-in-chief of a major magazine in Canada.

If public record of Vietnamese lesbian and gay history begins anywhere, it probably begins with *Doi Dien* in the Summer of 1993 in California. But for Le and his group, belonging to the Coalition of Vietnamese Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Networks, the magazine will move forward, as it will work back to recognize the thoughts, feelings and accomplishments of the gay generation that had gone before. The magazine does have a very captive audience of Vietnamese lesbians and gays, regardless of whether one goes by ten percent or by one percent.

Copies of *Doi Dien* are available at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street, or by calling (415) 956-9160. ▼

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Bay Reporter

The Quilt Goes To Sacramento

United Press International

SACRAMENTO — Thousands of people flocked to the Sacramento Convention Center Saturday, September 25, to view the NAMES Project quilt.

Among the 1,200 quilt panels on display were celebrity panels featuring tributes to Queen vocalist Freddie Mercury, Broadway choreographer and director Michael Bennett, and Ryan White, a boy who died of AIDS after a long, publicized battle with the virus.

Visitors — many of whom wiped away tears and hugged — said they were just as touched by tributes to lesser-known people who had succumbed to AIDS.

Many of the quilt panels

featured the personal belongings of AIDS victims, including T-shirts, pictures, Boy Scout memorabilia and 4-H pins.

Many friends and relatives of AIDS victims also have brought in new three-foot by six-foot panels to add to the quilt.

The pieces are among those on the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt, which offers tributes to 24,000 people who have died of AIDS.

Event coordinator Tim Chamberlain said he expected the three-day event to draw more than 4,000 people by the time it concludes Sunday.

"It's about making connections, remembering, healing and grieving," Chamberlain said. ▼

CAN You Say Bigot?

by Al Kielwasser

The Christian Action Network (CAN)—a heterosexual supremacist group—has been sending “clips of pornographic films” to the White House. Whining that these “pornographic films” had the “stamp of approval” of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), CAN hopes to convince Bill Clinton to fire the endowment’s acting chair, Ana Steele and, ultimately, to abolish the NEA altogether.

The 15-minute videotape being distributed by CAN is composed of excerpts from three films shown at the 1991 Pittsburgh International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The CAN peep show depicts two men masturbating in a bathtub, a woman masturbating, and a man (wearing only his leather boots) handcuffed to another man.

The NEA did not, in fact, contribute a single cent towards the making of these films, but only authorized grants to support the Pittsburgh festival (as part of a meager \$17,500 grant that also included lesbian and gay film festivals in New York and Los Angeles). Acting NEA chair Ana Steele recently reversed a censorious Bush administration decision to deny grants to these lesbian and gay film festivals.

During last year’s presidential election, CAN also produced an anti-Clinton TV ad that showed carefully edited shots of a New York gay march, while the announcer said: “Bill Clinton’s vision for a better America includes job quotas for homosexuals, giving homosexuals special civil rights, allowing homosexuals in the Armed Forces. Al Gore supports homosexual couples adopting children and becoming foster parents. Is this your vision for a better America?”

Contact Bill Clinton and advise him to rebuff the efforts of such hate mongers. Write to President Bill Clinton at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, tel. 202-456-1414. And if you’d like your very own videotape of “government-sponsored pornography,” send requests to the Christian Action Network, P.O. Box 606, Forest, VA 24551.

What’s Ailing CNBC?

Roger Ailes has been named president of CNBC, the cable television talk-show and business news network. Available on 4,000 systems nationwide, CNBC reaches 48.5 million cable subscribers. As part of his new job, Ailes will also be in charge of another NBC cable channel, “America’s Talking,” scheduled to premiere in 1994. We should all be alarmed.

Even a quick glance at Roger Ailes’ right wing resume is cause for concern. Ailes was media adviser to Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Bush. He put together the exceedingly racist “Willie Horton” campaign ads for the 1988 presidential election. He is—and will continue to be—the executive producer of The Rush Limbaugh Show.

According to NBC President Robert Wright, Roger Ailes is “one of a kind in the television business. He represents a unique combination of promoter, entrepreneur, and, above all, a highly talented television producer.” Would you care to add “mercenary bigot” to that list, Mr. Wright?

The only way to cure homophobia is to confront it! Notify the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, of all defamations or affirmations, and if possible supply us with documentation. Our office number is 415-861-4588; South Bay Hotline 408-235-0229; East Bay Hotline 510-273-9146; fax 415-861-4893. Our mailing address is GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro St., Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. ▼

Certainly, nothing in Roger Ailes’ resume suggests that he has the ability or the will to provide fair and accurate coverage of women, people of color, the poor, or the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities. Contact Robert Wright and CNBC today to share your concerns. Write to Robert Wright, President, National Broadcasting Company, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10021, tel. 212-664-4444; CNBC, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523, tel. 818-840-4488.

Johnson Wax: Incredibly Dull!

It appears that the Johnson Wax company has finally bowed to the forces of bigotry. The company had been the target of a boycott launched by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLearTV, an arm of the American Family Association), which targeted Johnson Wax for sponsoring “pro-homosexual” television programs that featured “lesbian innuendo.”

In the latest letter from Johnson Wax, company spokesperson Thomas Conrardy states: “I am happy to report that CLearTV has lifted the national boycott against S.C. Johnson Wax, following a meeting we had with representatives of CLearTV. We are confident that the mutual understanding will strengthen our ability to avoid programs that are not in good taste or inconsistent with our own values.”

Johnson Wax has come to an “understanding” with an organization that is committed to promoting hatred towards lesbian, gays, and bisexuals. CLearTV and the AFA do little more than spew the bigotry that continues to make lesbians and gays the most frequent victims of hate crime in the United States.

Has Johnson Wax made any imminent plans to meet with representatives of lesbian and gay media advocacy groups? Send your inquiries and caustic comments to Thomas R. Conrardy, Director, Consumer Resource Center, SC Johnson Wax, 1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403-5011, tel. 414-631-2000.

Secrets Behind the Songs

Did you know that the Beatles 1965 hit “You’ve Got to Hide Your Love Away” was a queer love ballad? So says reporter and pop culture critic Adam Block, in an essay in *The People’s Almanac Presents The Book of Lists: The ’90s Edition*, published by Little, Brown & Co. and due out this month. An excerpt from that essay also appears in the September 5th edition of *Parade* magazine, a nationwide supplement included in the Sunday editions of many newspapers.

John Lennon wrote “You’ve Got to Hide Your Love Away” after spending a weekend with his gay manager, Brian Epstein. Block also reports that, according to lead singer Bono, the U2 song “One” is “about a boy with AIDS, addressing his father.” All proceeds from the single’s release went to AIDS charities. The lyric, in part, sings: “You act like you never had love/and you want me to go without/We’re one, but we’re not the same/We’ve got to carry each other, carry each other.” However, Block observes that “shorn of its context, few have heard the song as the singer did.”

Send comments to Walter Anderson, Editor, *Parade* magazine, 750 Third Ave., NYC 10017. ▼

Doonesbury Cracks Closet Door

by Bill Behrens

G.B. Trudeau’s *Doonesbury*, the comic strip with such an attitude that some newspapers will print it only on the opinions pages, featured the tentative coming-out of one of its major characters earlier this month.

This development probably did not come as a shock to newspaper editors or *Doonesbury* fans, since the strip’s appeal is mostly derived from its humorous, left-leaning treatment of often-controversial social and political issues. And the introduction of a homosexuality into a character’s, well, character, was no groundbreaker for Trudeau, who has dealt in his strip with homosexuality on and off for more than a

decade. But what did come as a surprise to some was the fact that no uproar ensued.

“There hasn’t been a word of complaint yet,” a spokesperson for Universal Press Syndicate, which distributes the strip, said.

“Maybe there’s some hope [that] people are finally becoming educated,” she added.

The storyline kicked off August 31 when Mark, the self-described “middle-aged, loudmouthed, radical” disc jockey, was visited in a dream by Andy, a gay character who was diagnosed with AIDS in April 1989 and eventually died. During the late-night visitation, Andy tells Mark that being gay “seems one possible explanation for why

you’ve chosen to be alone all these years. Maybe you can’t bear the implications of your true sexual nature.”

A shaken Mark, reluctant to accept a gay sexuality, awakens his heterosexual married friend, Mike Doonesbury, to talk about his concerns.

“I just don’t understand why this happened to me so late [in life],” Mark fretted. “... I’m scared, Mike. Being gay in this culture is too damn hard. I’d rather continue as a sexual agnostic.”

Mike reassures him, “But you’re not only gay. It’s just one more thing about you. Just add it to the list.”

When Mike tells his wife, J.J., she responds humorously, “Of course he’s gay. I’ve known that for years! ... Believe me, it’s no big deal.” ▼



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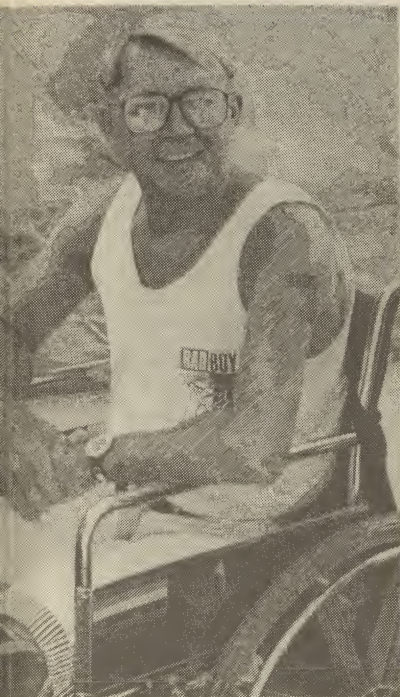
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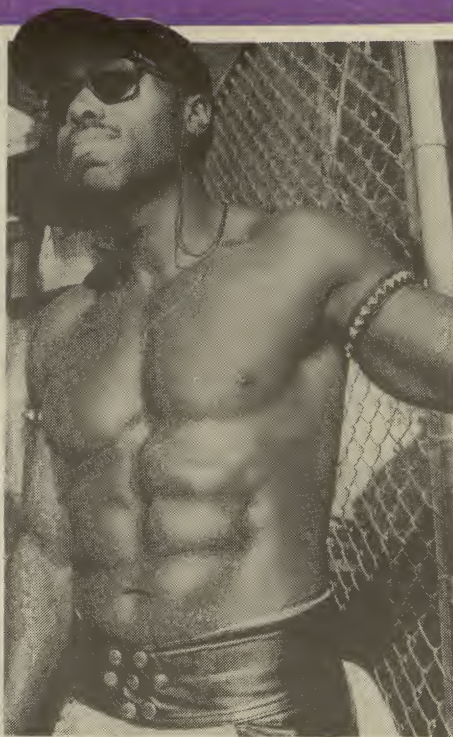
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Health News

Bynum Announces Date of S.F. Cyclosporine-Prednisone Forum

by David O'Connor

A doctor treating HIV-positive patients with a combination of cyclosporine and prednisone will present his findings Friday, October 8 in San Francisco.

Dr. Thieral Bynum of Nashville, Tennessee, claims to have eliminated HIV from the bodies of seven patients. He will explain his therapy and answer questions during a public forum beginning at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street.

"I'm thrilled at the opportunity to present my findings in this type of setting," Bynum said in a press statement. "I am anxious to get this going. So many people could benefit from this, and time is marching on."

Commonly used to prevent organ rejection after transplant surgery, the drugs cyclosporine and prednisone work by inhibiting a person's immune system. Bynum said his therapy works by destroying the genetic material HIV needs to survive and grow.

Bynum said that after an average of eight months of treatment, patients test negative for HIV under polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which checks for HIV itself in a person's DNA. One patient continues to test positive with PCR, but his AIDS symptoms have abated, Bynum said.

The treatment is most successful for patients in early stages of HIV infection, Bynum said, but he believes the treatment can improve the health of anyone with HIV or AIDS.

Bob Durino, a San Francisco resident who is organizing Bynum's meeting here, reports a great deal of local interest in the experimental therapy.

"Our plan is straightforward," Durino said. "We will present the science behind the protocol and take questions from our guests. We hope to provide enough information to satisfy due diligence obligations. In other words, lay it out there for all to see."

One local doctor who plans to attend the October 8 meet-

ing is research immunologist John Krowka of the University of California at Berkeley. Krowka, who has been working on AIDS research since 1984, supports further investigation of cyclosporine in treating AIDS.

Krowka pointed out that a report presented last August at the American Association of Immunologists meeting in Denver showed cyclosporine combined with AZT was more effective against HIV in the test tube than either drug alone.

But Krowka strongly cautioned that a negative PCR test does not mean that HIV has been removed from the patient's body.

"Just because you don't find the virus in the blood doesn't mean it isn't somewhere else," Krowka said. "It's an impossible point to prove HIV is gone from the body. There are hundreds of lymph nodes the virus could hide in."

For more information about Bynum's presentation, call (415) 550-1406. ▽

Gary Collins TV Surprise

by Rene M. Astudillo

The news that talk show host Gary Collins had tested negative for HIV a day after the incident on live television in which a doctor injected co-host Sarah Purcell with the same flu-shot needle he had just used on Collins has triggered a number of confused calls to the AIDS hotline. Hotline callers, as well as clients seeking to be tested for HIV, have always been told about the "two to twelve weeks window period," and in some cases, six months, in which antibodies produced as a reaction to HIV infection become present in the blood of a person being tested.

The sharing of intravenous drug needles with an HIV-infected person is one of the known risks of the transmission of the virus that causes AIDS. Collins, host of the ABC

television program, *Home*, immediately went for blood tests

after Friday's incident to make sure he had no infection that could have been passed on to Purcell. Aside from submitting himself for the HIV test, Collins also reportedly took the hepatitis test.

Friday's incident happened during the morning show's special segment on flu vaccines wherein Dr. Edward Gilbert, a family physician, prepared two syringes — one for Collins and another for Purcell. Gilbert first injected Collins with the vaccine then mistakenly used the same syringe on Purcell. Soon after the confusion, the show cut to a commercial and came back live with the hosts explaining what happened.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Epee Rafanan, coordinator for the AIDS

hotline, explained that it was likely that the test administered on Collins was the Polymerase Chain Reaction, or PCR test, which confirms the presence or absence of the AIDS virus itself, as opposed to HIV antibody tests which determine the presence or absence of antibodies to the virus. The alternative test sites (ATS) utilize antibody tests such as the ELISA and Western Blot, which can only give accurate results on blood samples that have passed the so-called window period. The window period begins at the time of suspected exposure to HIV.

The PCR test, which could give accurate results within hours, is the kind of test administered on nurses and other health care workers who get accidentally stuck by needles used on patients. It is much more costly than other HIV tests. ▽

Blacks Likeliest To Change Behavior: Study Finds Straights Still Have Unsafe Sex

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Despite intense years of AIDS prevention messages, fewer than half of a group of otherwise health-conscious young adults reported changing their behavior to reduce AIDS risks, researchers said Monday, September 27.

University of Minnesota researchers surveyed 1,601 urban heterosexuals between 21 and 40 and found only 43 percent reported at least one change in their sexual behavior because of AIDS.

Because all of the participants were in a long-term study of heart disease, the re-

searchers were surprised that these health-conscious people were not more concerned about AIDS.

The most frequently reported behavior changes were:

- More careful selection of sexual partners;
- Having fewer sexual partners; and
- Increased condom use.

Blacks were more likely than others to report behavior changes, the researchers found.

"Optimism must be tempered by the finding that substantial numbers of those who are still at risk did not report any behavioral changes. Thus,

further efforts are warranted to reduce AIDS risk behaviors in the general and high-risk populations," said Dr. Sandra Melnick and colleagues in the journal *Public Health Reports*.

The researchers said these results should be considered a "best-case" example of the impact of AIDS education, since the study participants were "concerned enough about their health to be participating in a longitudinal study of risk factors for cardiovascular disease, a condition not likely to affect them for decades." ▽

Clinton Health Plan Praised by AIDS Organizations—but with Reservations

by David Olson

AIDS and lesbian health organizations are praising the national health plan that President Bill Clinton announced last week as a major advancement, but they said it falls short of what they wanted to see.

Clinton's proposal would extend health insurance to all Americans, requiring businesses to pay 80 percent of employees' insurance premiums—with employees paying the rest—and using federal subsidies to help lower-income and unemployed people, and small businesses.

"This is a great step forward," said Lynora Williams, spokesperson for the Washington-based AIDS Action Council. "The intention of the plan is universal coverage and a fairly comprehensive benefit package, and that's good for people with AIDS."

Pre-existing clause struck

One major advance is the elimination of pre-existing conditions clauses, said Karen Fishman, executive director of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Most insurance plans have such clauses, which prohibit people with expensive-to-treat diseases such as AIDS from obtaining coverage. As a result, many people with AIDS do not have insurance and must impoverish themselves to qualify for Medicaid.

Those who already have insurance coverage often are forced to stay at jobs they would otherwise leave, because to do otherwise would cost them their insurance coverage. In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that companies with self-insured plans have a right to cancel coverage for people with AIDS, even when employees discover their HIV status after obtaining insurance.

AIDS groups had been worried that the plan would reduce or even eliminate funding for the federal Ryan White CARE Act, which provides additional federal funding to areas hit hardest by

AIDS. But Ryan White was untouched by the plan, a big boon for cities such as San Francisco, which rely on Ryan White money to fund city AIDS programs.

Lesbians, who, according to preliminary studies, have a higher breast-cancer rate than other women, would benefit from the plan because those without insurance would be more likely to take preventive steps such as having pap smears and mammograms, said Sue LaVaccare, women's program coordinator at Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, a lesbian and gay health clinic. Lesbians, of course, would benefit like anyone else from the general expansion of coverage, she said.

Some drawbacks

Although AIDS and lesbian health organizations are pleased with the broad outline of the plan, they hope that the Clinton administration and Congress make it more comprehensive. Government-run health systems in Europe and Canada have fewer out-of-the-pocket expenses, such as prescription drug copayments and insurance premium charges, than the Clinton plan.

The president's plan includes prescription drug coverage, but, depending on the type of insurance coverage, it requires payments ranging from a flat \$4 fee each prescription to 20 percent of the total prescription cost, along with a \$250 deductible.

Those fees could add up quickly for PWAs, many of whom are on several types of expensive medications, said A. Cornelius Baker, director of public policy and education for the National Association of People with AIDS.

"The impact on people with chronic diseases taking five to six prescriptions a day can be phenomenal," he said.

In addition, said Bruce Taylor, spokesman for the National Minority AIDS Council, the plan does not go far enough in including experimental drugs and treat-

ments, which many PWAs use because of the paucity of federally approved anti-AIDS medication. It usually takes several years for medications to go through the federal drug approval process.

Under the plan, investigational treatments are only covered if they are deemed by the government to be "medically necessary" or if they are used in formal research.

Many PWAs need case managers, who are people who assist them in obtaining proper medical care and in obtaining meals, housing and other necessities. The Clinton plan does not clearly state whether expenses for them would be covered.

An increasing number of people with AIDS are undocumented workers, and the Clinton plan would exclude them from coverage. They may wind up with even less access to health care than they have now, because the new national plan may lead to the closure of many publicly financed local health clinics, where illegal immigrants often go for medical care, Baker said. As is currently the case with many poor people, undocumented workers would be forced to use hospital emergency rooms for basic care, he said.

AIDS groups also are wor-



Pushing the program: President Bill Clinton.

ried about the civil-rights ramifications of the plan. A federally regulated system could lead to government files on people's medical histories, opening the door to government knowledge of people's HIV status, Baker said. If such files are created, there should be strict confidentiality guidelines, he said.

Forced poverty

The Clinton proposal does include coverage for hospice care for the terminally ill, and that would benefit many people with AIDS, Fishman said. But she said she is concerned that it does not require nursing-home coverage, which means that PWAs and others will continue to have to impoverish themselves to qualify for Medicaid-funded nursing-home care. The plan does, however, allow Medicaid nursing home residents

to keep a larger amount of assets.

The overall effects on people on Medicaid would vary by state, because there currently is a vast disparity between states on the comprehensiveness of medical care for the poor. Under the Clinton plan, benefits would be the same across the country, meaning that people living in more generous states such as Wisconsin would be hurt by the plan while those living in less generous states such as Mississippi would gain.

A potential problem for lesbians and gay men could be the limited choice of doctors under the least expensive health insurance plan, LaVaccare said. That plan is similar to a health maintenance organization approach. Under HMOs, out-of-pocket expenses are higher when the patient chooses a doctor not associated with her or his HMO.

"It will be more difficult for lesbians to switch from a homophobic doctor to a lesbian, or lesbian-sensitive, doctor," LaVaccare said.

Despite the problems, the Clinton plan is a vast improvement over the current situation, Fishman said. With Republicans threatening to try to water down the plan, "we need to keep the pressure on to get as comprehensive a level of coverage as possible," she said.

Yet, Fishman pointed out, the target date for full implementation of the plan is not until January 1998, and "for people who already are sick, this might not be implemented fast enough to help them." ▼

Plea Bargain in San Diego Bashing

United Press International

SAN DIEGO — A man charged in the highly publicized slaying of a teenage boy mistakenly thought to be gay pleaded guilty Tuesday, September 28, to "involuntary manslaughter" in San Diego Superior Court.

Michael Dipaolo, 25, pleaded guilty in connection with the December 13, 1991, death of John Wear, 17, and to the charge of assault with a knife to Wear's friend, Brian Baird, 19. The pleas were entered on the day Dipaolo's re-trial was to begin.

Sentencing was scheduled October 27, and Dipaolo remains in county jail.

Eddie Barton, 26, was convicted of second-degree murder in the case June 14, but the same jury deadlocked ten to two for acquittal for Dipaolo.

Barton was sentenced August 19 to 20-years-to-life in prison and fined \$5,000.

Witnesses testified that Barton stabbed Wear after yelling anti-gay slurs at Wear and his friend. Neither Wear nor Baird were gay.

Under the plea bargain, prosecutors will ask that Dipaolo serve no more than four (of the maximum five) years in prison.

Wear will, of course, still be dead when Dipaolo is a free man. ▼

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Knowing When To Say NO

by Dan Medynski

Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Cornell University Medical School reported in the September 10 issue of the weekly magazine *Science* that a gaseous byproduct of cellular metabolism, nitric oxide, has broad spectrum antiviral properties. The research team, led by Gunasegaran Karupiah and John MacMicking, reported that the ability of interferon gamma (IFN-g) to inhibit the replication of herpes simplex virus-1 (HSV-1), pox virus, and vaccinia virus in mouse macrophages correlated with the production of nitric oxide in these cells [*Science* 261:1445-1447 (1993)].

Nitric oxide (NO), not to be confused with nitrous oxide (N₂O, commonly known as laughing gas), was virtually unknown to biomedical researchers five years ago; recently, NO has grabbed center stage in laboratories throughout the world, where it has been shown to play significant roles in fighting microbial and parasitic infections, to act as a dilator of blood vessels, and to function as a neurotransmitter important in learning and memory.

On the lighter side, NO has been identified, in males, as the "lovemaking molecule" that translates sexual excitement into an erect penis: sexual excitement sets off a chain reaction, first triggering elec-

trical impulses to be sent from the brain to nerves in the pelvic region, and then inducing the pelvic nerves to synthesize and release NO into the blood vessels of the penis. NO causes dilation of these blood vessels, the "love tool" becomes engorged with blood, and then it's all bump-and-grind from there on out. Inhibitors that block NO biosynthesis have actually been shown to prevent penis erections in male rats.

Antiviral Actions of NO

The recent *Science* article prompted the *Bay Area Reporter* to investigate claims about the antiviral properties of NO, and to evaluate its potential role in fighting opportunistic infections.

The researchers infected mouse macrophages with three different kinds of viruses, herpes simplex virus-1 (HSV-1), vaccinia virus (VV) and ecromelia virus (EV), a mouse pox virus, in separate experiments. Some cells were treated with interferon gamma (IFN-g), while other cells were not. IFN-g is a cytokine, a hormone-like substance with potent antiviral properties. They found that IFN-g blocked viral replication in all three experiments, unless inhibitors of NO synthesis were included in the experiments. This implies that IFN-g blocks viral replication by stimulating the biosynthesis of NO.

The researchers also tested the effect of NO on viral in-

fection in animals: mice were infected with the mouse pox virus, EV, and then the course of the viral infection was monitored in the presence or absence of inhibitors of NO synthesis. The mortality rate was six times higher in mice treated with NO inhibitors (30 percent), and virus titers were significantly higher in the spleens and livers of the inhibitor-treated mice. This was the only experiment performed by these investigators in which animals rather than cells were used. The investigators did not measure the effect of IFN-g on mortality or viral titers in this experiment.

Finally, the researchers demonstrated that all three viruses replicated freely in epithelial cells; epithelial lack the specific enzyme, nitric oxide synthase (NOS), that synthesizes NO. By inserting the gene encoding NOS into epithelial cells, or by adding chemicals that stimulate NO production, the scientists were able to block replication of all three virus types.

The NIAID and Cornell investigators suggested that drugs that stimulate the synthesis of nitric oxide, such as the cytokines IFN-g, tumor necrosis factor (TNF), and interleukin 1 (IL-1), as well as NO generating chemicals, might be useful in the treatment of cold sores caused by human HSV-1, as well as lesions caused by the human pox virus, molluscum contagiosum.

A quick review of the way NO functions in the body should enhance the reader's understanding of its therapeutic potential. Nitric oxide is a free radical that lasts for about twenty or thirty seconds once it is synthesized. NO and some of its higher oxide byproducts act in cells by reacting with iron groups associated with certain enzymes, or by nitrosylating proteins at specific sites. Some of the enzymes are activated in this process, priming certain metabolic reactions, while other enzymes are inhibited, slowing down those particular metabolic reactions. It is likely that the antiviral properties of NO involves either deamination of viral DNA or inhibition of the enzyme ribonucleotide reductase, which is important in DNA synthesis. It isn't clear whether NO blocks the replication of all viruses. The amino acid L-arginine is the only source from which NO is synthesized in the human body. Certain chemical derivatives of L-arginine, like N-monomethyl-L-arginine (L-NMMA), can block NO synthesis, while other chemicals, like S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine (SNAP), function as NO generators. Cytokines like IFN-g and TNF act by triggering cells to synthesize more of the enzyme responsible for NO biosynthesis.

Using NO to Treat AIDS

The *Bay Area Reporter* examined various antiviral HIV treatments and also probed the potential use of cytokines that induce NO to treat various opportunistic infections associated with AIDS.

Using various chemical inhibitors or activators of NO is a complex issue, in part because the quantity of its biosynthetic enzyme is subject to feedback regulation, and also because the paradoxical and multiple actions of this free radical are still not fully understood. The most effective way to stimulate the production of NO is to use the cytokines IFN-g, TNF, and IL-1; they behave synergistically in inducing the biosynthesis of the enzyme that produces NO. While these cytokines have many other physiological effects besides inducing NO produc-

tion, examining whether these cytokines block HIV replication or AIDS-associated opportunistic infections offers a quick route to figuring out the potential value of NO in AIDS treatment. IFN-g inhibits HIV expression in the test tube, while the effects of TNF are ambiguous; TNF inhibits HIV replication in some T-cell lines, but actually triggers HIV replication in others.

In the clinic, a 16 week phase I/II treatment protocol involving TNF and IFN-g resulted in no significant changes of important indicators of HIV replication and disease progression, namely CD4 counts, beta-2-microglobulin, HIV p24 antigen levels, or anti p-24 antibody [Jan Agosti and others, *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses* 8: 581-586 (1992)].

Modulators of NO production are likely to have a more positive impact on the treatment of opportunistic infections and septic shock. A combination of IFN-g and macrophage colony stimulating factor were shown to inhibit the growth of *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) in macrophages isolated from the lung [R. Rose and others, *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology* 4: 248-254 (1991)]. Other experiments, done mostly *in vitro*, establish a potential role for NO and its radical derivatives in macrophage inhibition of cryptococcus, toxoplasmosis, and staphylococcus infections. The results of these studies in human subjects has not yet been reported.

Over-production of NO, which can be caused by a polysaccharide in the cell wall of some pathogenic bacteria, has been implicated in the hypotensive effects and vascular collapse of potentially lethal septic shock. Septic shock in immunocompromised individuals is caused by blood-borne infections by certain microorganisms, including *E. coli*, *Salmonella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella*, and *Pseudomonas*. Recently, L-NMMA, the inhibitor of nitric oxide biosynthesis, was used to reverse hypotension in two septic shock patients [A. Petros and others, *Lancet* 338: 1557-1558 (1991)]. ▼



Steve Simon, President

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AIDS Now the Largest Killer of U.S. Prisoners

United Press International

WASHINGTON — More than half of prisoner deaths in Northeastern states in 1991 were caused by AIDS, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics

Nationwide, 28 percent of the 1,863 state prisoners who died in custody died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — 513 men and 15 women.

In New Jersey, 69 percent of the inmate deaths were AIDS-related deaths, as were 66 percent in New York, 44 percent in Florida, 33 percent in Maryland, and 30 percent

in North Carolina and Massachusetts, the Bureau of Justice Statistics said.

In 1991, 2.2 percent of the 792,000 men and women in federal and state prisons were infected with HIV. Of these, 0.6 percent exhibited HIV symptoms, and 0.2 percent had confirmed AIDS.

Among tested prisoners who said they had never used drugs, 0.8 percent were HIV positive, as were 2.5 percent who said they had used drugs at least once, 4.9 percent who said they had used needles to inject drugs and 7.1 percent who said they had shared needles. ▼

Clinical Drug Trial Kills Both Patients and Hopes

Failure of Fialuridine Raises Questions About AZT, ddI, ddC

by Bob Roehr

It was a classic case of the cure being worse than the disease: an experimental hepatitis-B drug called fialuridine (FIAU) ended its Phase II clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) when it killed five of the first ten people who had taken it. Many of the names of the patients have now become public knowledge; all of the participants known so far are gay men.

On Tuesday, September 21, approximately 200 people gathered in Rockville, Maryland, at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to try and figure out what had gone wrong. Many left even more disturbed than when the had arrived.

The principal operating theory to explain the fatal reaction was that the FIAU destroyed the DNA replicating function of the mitochondria within the cells, particularly within the liver and pancreas. Mitochondria are the principal energy-producing structures within most cells.

Perhaps most disturbing to many was the fact that FIAU is a nucleoside analog, the same family of anti-virals as the HIV drugs AZT, ddC, and ddI. Evidence was presented

that these drugs are also producing similar toxic reactions in patients, albeit not as broadly or efficiently, and at lower and slower levels of poisoning. The implications for the main avenue of AIDS anti-viral therapy were shattering.

Complaints about side effects were sloughed off by the NIH physicians.

The only public representative to speak, Paul Melstrom, launched a blistering attack against the people and procedures of the FIAU trial. He had participated in Phase I trials of FIAU in 1992, but had complained of side effects and opted out of the Phase II trials in 1993.

Melstrom outlined in great detail how his complaints of peripheral neuropathy (pain and tingling in his legs) in the fall of 1992 were at first ignored. Then, when documented by three outside physi-

cians, the symptoms were ascribed to non-trial related causes by supervising physician Michael Fried.

These reactions prompted Melstrom, a veteran of earlier clinical trials and an active participant on AIDS computer bulletin boards, into a more pro-active patient stance. But still to no avail. The complaints from Melstrom — and, he was later to learn, from others as well — were sloughed off by the NIH physicians.

The phase II trial of FIAU began in March 1993 with ten patients drawn from the phase I trials (five new participants were added in early June). It continued even after patients began complaining of severe muscle pain, weight loss, and nausea. On June 26, one patient checked in to a hospital emergency room with multiple organ failure and lactic acidosis. The trial was abruptly terminated a few hours later.

Six months after the start of the Phase II trials, five of the original ten patients are dead; two have had liver transplants (one is still in the hospital, nearly two months after the operation); and three suffered what were first described as "no," but are now listed as "mild," side effects.

The FDA panel tried to cut Melstrom's statement short when time ran out, but eventually allowed him to continue. They asked no questions; it seemed the old boy network was protecting itself.

The media was out in force, but did not pursue Mel-

gle defended his actions, repeating earlier statements by he and others that no earlier tests on animals or in Phase I trials led them to anticipate the liver toxicity that killed the patients.

The story did not run that day or the next in the national media: it was bumped by President Clinton's public relations barrage on health care reform. Later in the week Melstrom taped an interview with the ABC news magazine *Prime Time Live*. It is likely to air toward the end of October, and could stimulate further public debate on FIAU.

Melstrom has spoken with several members of Congress and their staffs about a possible congressional investigation of the botched FIAU clinical trial. He does not have faith that the NIH and medical research communities can effectively investigate themselves.

"Everyone associated with these trials had a personal stake in the success of the trials. They didn't want to hear bad news, so it was dismissed," said Melstrom. He wants "blame affixed" and changes made "that will prevent a repeat of this in the future." He won't rest until it happens. ▼

Six months after the start of the Phase II trials, five of the original ten patients are dead; two have had liver transplants; and three suffered what are now listed as "mild" side effects.

strom. Instead reporters attended a news conference by Jay Hoofnagle, project director of the FIAU trial. Hoofna-

B-Cells Bind to HIV

by Douglas A. Levy
UPI Science Editor

UCLA researchers may have made a breakthrough in understanding HIV, with their new discovery that T-cells are not the only class of human cells to bind to the virus.

Dr. Jonathan Braun reports in the journal *Science* that the virus can attach to "B-cells," a immune system cell that helps fight infections by making antibodies. By attaching to both B-cells and infection-fighting T-cells, the scientists say the virus spreads into more of the human body. Researchers have known since the mid-1980s that HIV binds to T-cells. The new finding probably will alter vaccine research, says Braun. ▼

'Better Mousetrap' AZT Being Tested in Texas

United Press International

AUSTIN — A medical research company is looking for people infected with the AIDS virus to test a new formulation of the drug AZT that has few if any side effects.

CLINICOR Inc. is planning an 18-week study of the new drug, Aztec, at medical centers throughout the country, including San Antonio and Austin.

CLINICOR President Tom O'Donnell said up to 50 percent of patients experience toxicity or intolerable side effects with AZT, the oldest and most commonly used anti-viral treatment believed to slow the progress of HIV.

Aztec, which stands for "AZT efficiency controlled," is a sustained-release formu-

lation that CLINICOR says has produced no side effects in preliminary trials.

Dr. James Dunn, president of Verex Laboratories of Denver, which developed the new formulation, said Aztec "seems to be a better mousetrap. Regular AZT is given five to six times per day. Aztec can be taken twice per day. We've followed some patients five or six months and seen no side effects."

Eighty participants are being sought in Austin and San Antonio for the study. They will receive free medical assessments, medication and laboratory evaluations.

Participants must be HIV-positive but not yet developed AIDS or AIDS-related complex, and they must never have taken AZT or any other anti-viral drug. ▼

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Obituaries

David Wayne Barham

Aug. 26, 1962 - Sept. 19, 1993

Our beloved David went to the light on Sunday, September 19, following a sudden illness. David was born in McCall, Idaho, to Bess and Scott Barham, on August 26, 1962. He was raised in Riggins until the age of 12, when his family moved to Pierce, Idaho. There he spent his teenage years and graduated from Timberline High in 1979. He then attended the College of Opticians in Anaheim.

After receiving his optician's degree he worked in several optical shops in Idaho, Washington, and California before purchasing his own business, U See Optics, in Berkeley, Calif., in 1987. Recently he purchased and operated British Optics Import Company until the time of his death.

David was a very special person who touched everyone's life that he came in contact with. He lit up a room when he walked in and brought joy to his family and friends. God took him home because he was so special and he didn't want him to suffer any longer on earth. There will be a tremendous void in all our lives, but we have our own special memories and we are confident he is happy.

David is survived by his mother and father, Bess and Scott Barham of Tracy, Calif.; a sister and brother-in-law, Gina and Duane Stewart; nephew, Josh; niece, Jolene, of Star Idaho; brother and sister-in-law, Rick and Julie Barham; nieces, Ashlee and Marissa, of Shelton, Wash. David is the grandson of Leona Davidson of Tracy, Calif., and Margaret Wolfe of Riggins, Idaho. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. ▼

Rod Goebel

April 18, 1946 - Sept. 14, 1993

Rod was born in Austin, Texas. He passed away in Taos, New Mexico.

"Painting has always been my life force. The creating of a varied body of work both in subject and style has been a catalyst for my self-discovery. My process is to give up my control and preconceptions in order to achieve a sense of freedom and trust — which I believe are the highest goals toward which mankind can aspire..."

"A work of art, in whatever form, only has value if it speaks of human passion and feeling. A portrait should be alive and have the power to engage the viewer in a dialogue of wonder and self-discovery. I strive to portray a common humanity rather than a specific personality. I do capture my subject but seek a recognition of the person rather than merely a representation of the face. It is my desire to portray the loving spirit we share. I hope my work helps in bringing all of us together." ▼

Willis J. Mathews

June 5, 1955 - Sept. 21, 1993

Willis J. Mathews, an architect and former senior designer with Whisler-Patri Architects, died September 21 in Los Angeles at UCLA Medical Center from AIDS-related causes. He was 38.

Mr. Mathews was well known in the San Francisco and Los Angeles design communities for his strong modernist design. While he would happily employ color, texture, and humor, his designs were never compromised by excess ornament.

In San Francisco, he designed the Home Savings building at Front and

California streets, the renovation of Two Bryant Street, a Security Pacific branch bank near Union Square, and offices for Jardine Emmett & Chandler.

Mr. Mathews was raised in Mount Prospect, Illinois. He received his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1980. He moved to San Francisco in 1980, where he worked for Gensler Associates and HOK, before joining Whisler-Patri Architects in 1985. In 1987, he moved to Whisler-Patri's Los Angeles offices, and one year later became Director of Interior Architecture at Albert C. Martin & Associates. For the Martin office he completed interiors for the Argyros Forum at Chapman University in Orange, California, and offices for Home Savings of America, Security Pacific National Bank, and Alex Brown and Sons. His designs were widely published in *Interior Design*, *Interiors*, and *Designers West* magazines. He retired in 1992 because of failing eyesight.

Just before his death, he wrote, "One of my goals in life was to raise the level of intelligence in taste and design."

Mr. Mathews is survived by his father, Joseph; his mother, Mary; and his brother, Gabriel, all of Mount Prospect, Illinois. A private funeral will take place in Lexington, Kentucky, this week. A memorial in Los Angeles is planned for late October.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the AIDS Project Los Angeles or the UCLA Care Center.

For more information, please contact Kenneth Caldwell at (510) 549-2929. ▼

Christopher "Chris" Fitzgerald

Aug. 20, 1951 - Sept. 11, 1993

Chris traveled to SF in 1977 from Southern California. He immediately got into the rhythm of the gay life and never looked back. His profession as a bartender, his dedication to partying, and his love of world travel won him

many lifelong friends.

With his sister Cathy, he saw behind the Iron Curtain, rode Japan's bullet train, strode the beaches of Rio, rode the elephants in India, and shopped the streets of Hong Kong. During his tour with the U.S. Navy, he was stationed in Roda, Spain, for four years.

Chris boarded for his final flight from this plane on Saturday, September 11, at the VA Hospital, Fort Miles. His brother Doug and his friends Eric, Zane, and John were with him through the day and evening, but being the proud and stubborn Leo that he was, he waited until everyone went home to "lift off" for his final destination.

Chris wanted to thank the wonderful staff and volunteers at the VA for their excellent care and compassionate support; his mother, Rose, for making it possible for him to be home as long as

he could; and his brother, Doug, for his unflagging love and support — it made all the difference. He also wanted to thank his many friends, Mary, Dottie, Jean, Margaret, Linzy, Scarlett, Gladys, Billy, Vera, Rose, Lola, Cynthia, and many more for all their efforts of love and support in his final days. There will be a "celebration of life" for Chris at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St., on Saturday, October 2, at 10 a.m.

Bon voyage, Helen. Save us a seat by the juke box. ▼

John Jeffrey Farris

Jan. 14, 1940 - July 22, 1993

John Jeffrey Farris of San Francisco died of complications associated with AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital on July 22, 1993. Born on January 14, 1940 in Hammond, Indiana, John was raised there by his mother and

after her death, by his sister Marge in Buffalo, New York. He came out during the early 1960's while serving in the military in Washington, DC, and subsequently lived in numerous cities, including Los Angeles, New York, Provincetown, Chicago, and Bloomington, Indiana, before settling in his beloved San Francisco where he lived for more than twenty years.

John had an avid interest in astrology, photography, and storytelling which he used to chronicle the lives of his loved ones and friends, whom he affectionately described as his "gay family." He traveled extensively throughout the California countryside and was especially fond of Yosemite National Park which shall remain as his monument for those with whom he shared its beauty and magnificence during the last ten years of his life.

In addition to his gay family scattered across the country, John is survived in Florida and Indiana by his sisters, nieces and a brother. His remains were cremated and a private memorial service will be held in Yosemite. ▼

Terry Stalker

Feb. 6, 1952 - Sept. 27, 1993

On Monday evening, September 27, 1993, Terry began his passage to a new and better place. His body lost a four year struggle with AIDS; his spirit is now once again free and boundless. At his bedside as he departed was Tim O'Bayley, his lover of six years, and a group of friends and family gathered to say farewell.

Terry was born in Delaware, New York, on February 6, 1952, and spent two-thirds of his life on a farm in rural Pennsylvania, instilling within him a love of the Earth and all things of nature. He also loved his work as a medical laboratory technologist, which brought him to the magical island of Maui, where he met and fell in love with Tim.

Terry leaves behind on this earth his lover, Tim; his mother, Frieda; brothers,

Steve, Johnny, David and Artie; and sister, Barbara; and many friends, all of whom wish him a glorious journey. Terry will be with us every time any of us feel joy. His wisdom and grace are forever.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to your AIDS service of choice. A service will be held on Saturday, October 2, at 3 p.m. at MCC, 150 Eureka St., SF. ▼

Kevin Freeman

September 18, 1993

Kevin Freeman died at home in San Francisco on Sept. 18, 1993, of AIDS-related complications. He was 40 years old and is survived by longtime companion, Hank Dutt; mother, Irma Freeman; brother, Warren Freeman; half-brother, Howard Edmond, all of San Francisco; and half-sister, Carol Holmes, and niece, Stephanie Holmes, of South San Francisco.

Kevin grew up in San Francisco; graduated in 1971 with honors from Lowell High; graduated in 1977 Magna Cum Laude from the University of Utah with a BA in Music; graduated in 1985 from Georgetown with an MA in French Linguistics; and graduated in 1987 from UC Berkeley with an MA in Library and Information Studies. An avid Francophile and gifted musician, Kevin was an active performer for many years with several groups, including the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Chanticleer, and the Choral Artists of San Francisco. Most recently, Kevin was Head of Musical Technical Services at the Stanford University Music Library, and was active on a national and regional level with the Music Library Association.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial and celebration of Kevin's life on Saturday, Oct. 23, 1993, at 2 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary, San Francisco. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kevin's memory to an AIDS organization of one's choice or to the Kevin Freeman Music Scholarship Fund, c/o 1235-A Ninth Ave., SF, CA 94122. ▼

William Daniel Lloyd

Nov. 17, 1940 - Sept. 16, 1993

William Daniel Lloyd, a barber ten years at Louie's Barber Shop in San Francisco, died September 16 at his home in Pleasant Hill. He was 52.

The native of Albert Lea, Minnesota, lived in Pleasant Hill ten years. He previously lived in San Francisco 25 years. He attended the University of Colorado two years and graduated in 1963 from the University of Minnesota. He served in the Navy 1964-67, and was a member of UFCW, Local 428.

He is survived by his brother Peter Lloyd of Colorado Springs.

A memorial service will be held on October 3, at 2 p.m. at his home in Pleasant Hill. Burial will be at Graceland Cemetery, Albert Lea, Minnesota. Arrangements by the Neptune Society of Walnut Creek.

Memorial gifts may be made in William's name to the AIDS Project of Contra Costa, 2280 Diamond Boulevard, Concord, CA 94520. ▼

Patrick "Wolf" Engle

April 13, 1933 - July 23, 1993

Our dear Wolf has died of AIDS. Wolf was born in Wisconsin, and there, on the farm where he was raised, he developed his special talent for flower arranging and gardening. He came to San Francisco during the Summer of Love, and made a permanent home here. He partook deeply of the riches this place had to offer, sharing his love of what made life beautiful with his fortunate friends. In his work, Wolf had a gift for bringing people and plants together, which he gave with great flourish at Fantastico, Goodman's, and Tretop Nursery, among others.

His passing is mourned by numerous brothers and sisters (his sister, Sandy, flew out to be with him during his illness) and friends, William Clark, Frank Garcia, George Silva, the Garcia family, and his friends at Springmeadow. A mass will be given in his memory on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:30 a.m., at the old Mission Dolores. For more information, call 431-8925. ▼

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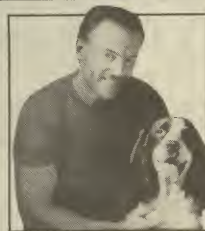
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Nels K. Peterson

Oct. 4, 1955 - Sept. 16, 1993

Nels quietly passed away at Davies Medical Center following the sudden onset of severe complications related to AIDS. While his death happened quickly, he was joined during his last days by his parents from Illinois, his sister from Colorado, and many members of his San Francisco "family." His partner of eight years, David Jones, was with him throughout, and was able to help him in his transition.

Nels was born and raised on a dairy farm near Chicago, and came to San Francisco in the early '80s. He began working with Great Earth Vitamins as a sales clerk shortly after arriving in California, and eventually became general manager of all the Great Earth stores. Most recently, he was co-owner of the Great Earth store at Polk and Washington Streets.

Nels is remembered by many people for many things, but particularly for his smile, his genuine friendliness, and his affection for his English Springer Spaniel, Max.

Following a memorial in his home town of Sandwich, Illinois, on October 3, a Celebration of Nels' life will be held in San Francisco at 3755 20th Street (near Dolores) on Sunday, October 10, beginning at 4:00 p.m. All those who knew Nels are invited to attend.

For those who may wish to make a memorial donation in his name, Nels suggested either PAWS of Kairos House.

"We didn't need dialogue. We had faces..." ▼

Obituaries

Bruce Heath

March 8, 1953–May 23, 1993

Several months have passed since Bruce left his family here on earth. As time goes by, Bruce continues to look over us in his caring way. He took with him his warmth, his dry sense of humor, and a love of life that sustained him through many months of pain. We will miss this man who loved car racing, football, mechanics, as well as his talking "baby dinosaur" doll and his toy animals.

Bruce left behind special gifts of love to all he considered his family.

His loving mother, Fern Heath, was by his side throughout his final days and won the hearts of all of us there with her. Also by his side were his companion Larry Krammer, whom did more than any one person, could to give Bruce the love and peace he so wanted, his old friend Victor Hoosac, and his roommate Wayne Menger, whom Bruce had brought together, and a new friend, Wes Wallace, whom Bruce brought new strength and meaning. A very special man has left us; goodbye my friend, we miss you. ♥

David Roy Custead

May 24, 1951–July 6, 1993

David Custead, 42 years old, a former aide to Mayors Feinstein and Agnos, died July 6, 1993, from complications with AIDS. He was buried July 9 with friends, co-workers and family present.

Born in Pennsylvania and raised in Phoenix, he moved to San Francisco in 1978. David became active on the Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee and in various gay political circles. He became a budget analyst for the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, serving as liaison between community groups and the mayor.

David, a religious man, was a member of the World Wide Church of God. After a falling out with the church over homosexuality, he converted to Judaism and joined Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

David was a generous, caring person who helped everyone he met or touched. He gave time and money to anyone who needed it from hustlers to political figures.

Custead is survived by his father, Mr. Custead, of Florida; Paul, of Arizona; and sister, Crystal Black of Utah.

A memorial service will be held in San Francisco at The Chia Gallery, 2648 Third Street at 23rd, on Sunday, October 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It's a potluck, and please RSVP to John 821-6469 or Ed 826-6216. ♥

Lee Kittelson

Sept. 25, 1947–Sept. 23, 1993

Lee passed peacefully on the morning of September 23 with his life partner and his mother and father by his bedside in his home. Lee's passing came just two days before his 46th birthday.

Lee is survived by his partner of eight years, Brant Sweetland; parents, Roy and Joan Kittelson of Beach, ND; sisters, Pam Reichert of Dickinson, ND, and Patty Voll of Hulett, WY.

Services will be held at St. Michael's Church on October 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Sentinel Butte, ND 58654. ♥

Shelby Topp

Jan. 23, 1946–Sept. 15, 1993

Shelby Topp made a characteristically graceful exit in the early evening of September 15, surrounded by family, close friends and his dedicated home health-care aide, Wayne Brown. He was predeceased in 1990 by his lover of eleven years, Joe Nonello. In his final illness, Shelby's uncomplaining, gentle spirit infused a large and diverse group of concerned people, transforming them into a ministering presence.

He was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and attended Millsaps College and Louisiana State University before mov-

ing on to San Francisco in 1968. He fell in love with the city and had the good fortune to share its riches with others through a long career as a concierge in many distinguished local hotels. He was a founding member of Les Clefs d'Or, U.S.A., a professional association of concierges, and was the first president of the Northern California Concierge Association.

Memorial services were held at the Swedenborgian Church on September 19, and contributions are recommended for Les Clefs d'Or Foundation, c/o Paul Barbour at the Prescott Hotel, 545 Post Street, S.F. 94102. For more information, phone Bob at (510) 531-4942. ♥

Gary W. Finley

June 24, 1952–Sept. 2, 1993

Artist, designer, retailer, and world



traveler. Gary left us peacefully on September 2, succumbing to complications from AIDS. Gary was born in Marysville, California. He graduated from Marysville High School, attended Yuba College, American River College, and graduated from the Art Institute in San Francisco. Gary lived in New York, Fire Island, and Amsterdam before settling in San Francisco.

He opened his retail store "GW. Finley" on Castro Street in November 1986. He moved it to its current location on Market Street in 1989. He operated it until retiring shortly before his death. He was a very successful, smart businessman.

His hobbies and interests were music of all types, fine restaurants, and dining. Sports were a passion in his life, and the 49ers were his joy. He loved to paint and design clothes.

Gary is survived by his mother, Mahnnell; sister, Gladys; and brothers Alan, Dennis, and Wesley. He will be missed by his many friends and acquaintances — too many to mention.

Memorial services were held in Marysville, California. Donations may be made in Gary's name to Project Open Hand, 2720 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. ♥

David Wayne South

June 21, 1955–Sept. 12, 1993

Our dear friend David passed on after a short battle with AIDS.

David was born into a large, loving, Canadian family. In his heart and mind, he was a world entertainer. We knew him as a bartender, cook, waiter. His biggest thrill was

spinning records with a country flair. He was also an affectionate showoff drag queen. All those talents often came into play at his many jobs and command performances in all the bars and restaurants in the greater Bay Area.

To his friends that knew him best, he was lovingly known as "South the Mouth." He was always the first with the best story or gossip on everyone and everything in town.

David is survived by his mother and dad, Gloria and Ernie; seven brothers and sisters; and many nieces and nephews in Canada. He is also survived by Bob Chapin, his lover of 15 years, and his large extended gay family.

No words can truly express our sadness, but David's words of "life must go on" give us strength and fond memories of him, our conviction. Forever with him, we are humbled by a life without him.

Contributions in his memory to Food for Thought or Face to Face are preferred. ♥

Michael L. Johnson

July 24, 1952–Sept. 17, 1993

In 1981 Michael arrived in San Francisco, a city he loved and enjoyed. On September 17, 1993, Michael moved to a better place, after a two-year battle with AIDS. In his own words, "I was sailing, and I lost the race."

He died peacefully at Mt. Zion UCSF, with his loving mother, Lillian, and devoted friend,

Richard, at his side.

Michael is survived by his parents, Walter and Lillian Johnson; brother, Terris Johnson; other family members; devoted friends, Richard and Lee Toner; and many friends and caretakers, especially his physician Dr. Virginia Carafio, Diane and Diane at Mt. Zion Infusion Clinic, whom he loved dearly. ♥

John Marshall Chidester a/k/a Sister X-plosion!, later Sister X-tasy Marie Colette

September 23, 1993

John Marshall Chidester, aka Sister



X-plosion!, later Sister X-tasy Marie Colette, was taken from the queer/AIDS activist community by AIDS on the morning of Thursday, September 23, 1993. A memorial service and demonstration

were held at the intersection of Castro and Market streets on Saturday, September 25, 1993. Her life and her great works were celebrated, and outrage was expressed at the senseless loss of yet another creative, passionate spirit in our struggle against ignorance, bigotry, and political inaction.

Sister X, as she is known to all, was a guiding spiritual and political force in the activist community both here and internationally. Sister X was responsible for establishing international orders of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Paris, London, Berlin, and other European cities. She penned the sacred and irreverent "Condom Savior Mass and Vow" as part of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.'s Safer Sex campaign, and also created "The Virtue of Trust," a wedding vow and ceremony for gays and lesbians. As AIDS began to rob John of his physical energy, Sister X-plosion! retired, and Sister X-tasy Marie Colette was born when the dynamic Parisian Chapter of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence honored her as "Great Godmother" and fully professed member of the Couvent de Paris. Shortly before she was taken from us, Sister X was notified that the Shanti Project will be honoring her for her leadership as an AIDS activist, educator and fundraiser on Thursday, October 7, 1993. At the time of her death, she was seeking publication of her autobiography, *Wish in One Hand: The Story of a Man Who Was a Nun*.

Through the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc., a California nonprofit organization comprised of social and political activists who use theatre and illusion to educate the public-at-large about AIDS, gay and lesbian freedom and other contemporary social issues, John Marshall Chidester was able to realize and develop his virtues as a nun, educator and AIDS activist. ♥

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, the *Bay Area Reporter* has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Write name of person on back of photo. If you include a stamped envelope to have the photo returned, please write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m. ♥

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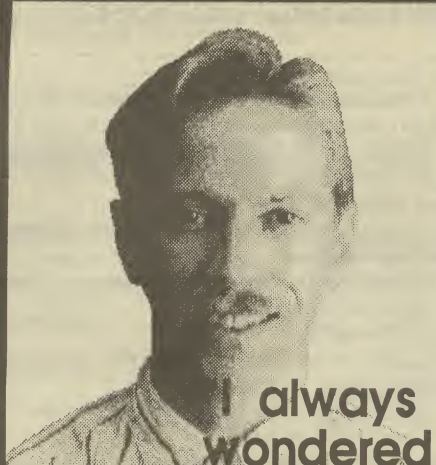
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Community News

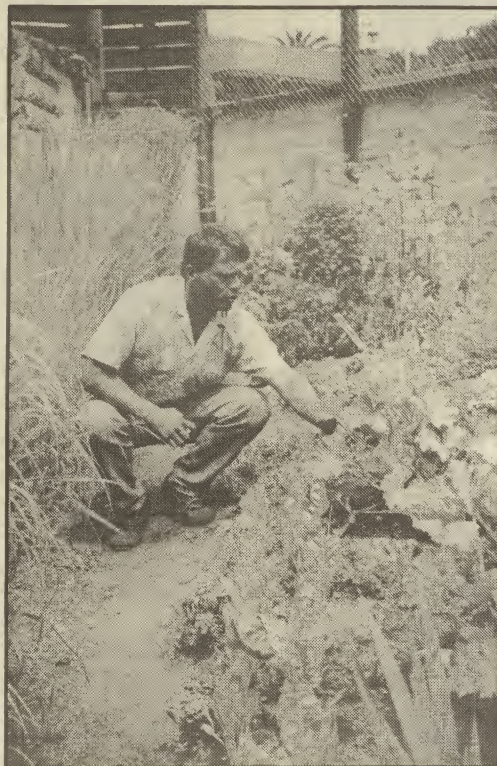
Planting Seeds: An Interview With Paul Gronberg of The Life Center

by Freddie Niem and
Francisco Mateos

From the site of a burned-down church, at 16th and Market streets in San Francisco's Castro district, has sprung up a garden and a hope for the caregiving of those infected with HIV/AIDS. And every morning, Paul Gronberg, the volunteer chiefly responsible, is to be seen there tending to the garden, wearing a tan and a smile. In 1978, Paul came to San Francisco from Minnesota and joined the Trinity United Methodist Church as a soloist and, in that role, watched as arson fire torched the church in 1981. The congregation moved into a building owned by St. Francis Lutherans in nearby Belcher Street.

"I was the church soloist and pianist [at Trinity]," Gronberg told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I stayed on after the Reverend James Sandmire's death, and now the congregation is made up of little white-haired ladies. I enjoy being with them, they smile and they cry and make me sing like never before.

"Edna Harris, now 93 years old, was an original member. She used to come and sweep the sidewalk clean. The second church burned down in 1981; they suspected



Volunteer Life Center gardener Paul Gronberg pulls a weed or two at the 16th and Market site.
(Photo: Freddie Niem)

arson but the church never filed charges. There were several churches set afire at that time: Golden Gate MCC was one, and we used to have joint worship services with them."

Soon the church will have a brand-new sanctuary that will hold about 200 worshippers, as well as an office, in the long-awaited Life Center building that will be erected on the spot.

"It will have a magnificent pipe organ," Gronberg promised. "The church will use the sanctuary on Sundays but there won't be pews or an altar. The plan is to have Shaker chairs hung on pegs on the wall, made and painted by artists. So when you come for service you just take a chair off the peg and sit down."

The church is not the only tenant of the building, by a long shot. "Several leases have been signed for the building," Gronberg said. "The Names Project will have a workshop and a receiving place. Under One Roof will have its gorgeous facility on the main floor; it will be our retail space. We're hoping to build the Center and have it paid for as fast as we can so we don't have to charge our tenants rent." There will also be offices for several area AIDS organizations.

Beautiful, healing, positive

According to Gronberg, "There was a need for this Center: PWAs would have to travel to get services and there was a need to have it all consolidated into one central place: a building that is beautiful, that is healing, and that is a positive statement. There will probably be blood testing here. Social Security may have a branch here. AIDS

benefit counselors will be with us. And we've gotten a grant for a computer library system.

"\$750,000 worth of art glass is being donated. Thirty-six feet tall. Sixteen artists collaborated, headed by Johannes Schreiter from Germany. Each did a panel, tying it all together with color. One of the artists pulled out, so there's this blank spot in the window, which is the Void, which is AIDS. That person is no longer here, so without thinking about it, they have created this perfect window.

"The church has leased the land to the Life Center for 99 years at one dollar a year. Part of that deal is to have a few church members on the board of directors. So therefore I was asked to join the board. Being an HIV person, I was flattered."

In the meantime, before there is a building, there is the garden. When the B.A.R. asked Gronberg how it came about, he said there is "a lot of magic in the story." As Gronberg recalled, "One day Steve Abrams, a landscape architect, called and said, 'What are you doing with that lot?' Two hours later, Catherine Snead of the Sheriff's Garden Project called and said, 'I understand that there is a lot.' So we put the two of them together and they worked it all out. It was their ideas that made it possible. It became the 1992 Earth Day project for five Bay area corporations: hundreds of people over several weekends cleaned out the lot, which is .67 acre, and hauled in the dirt. Smith and Hawken supplied all the seedlings in 1992. This year we went with Shepherd's Seeds, which donated

(Continued on next page)

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A closed, eight week group for lesbian/bisexual women with HIV. Contact Nan at ext. 177.

Mixed Antibody Couples

A closed, eight week group for gay/bisexual male couples. Contact Mark at ext. 149.

HIV Caregivers Group

A closed, group for friends, family, or partners of people with HIV. Contact Mark at ext. 149.

HIV Positive Group

A closed, ten week support group for HIV+ gay/bisexual men. Contact Rob at ext. 143

ARC/AIDS Group

A closed, eight week support group for gay/bisexual men with ARC/AIDS. Contact Rob at ext. 143.

Dating & Relationships Group

A closed, eight week group for gay/bisexual men exploring dating and intimacy. Contact Rob at ext. 143.

HIV Negative Group

A closed, eight week group for HIV- gay/bisexual men. Contact Rob at ext. 143.

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Community News

everything. Mission High School's special education class come down here one day and did some planting.

The more you pick...

"We use the pick and cut method. The more you pick the green beans, the snow peas, the tomatoes, the lettuces, the squashes, the more they grow. We have Mexican sunflowers: as soon as you pick one, two more shoots will come up. The idea was to have more food than we know what to do with. The garden is very successful. It's very clean, we don't have bugs or snails. I don't know why. We don't fertilize except that we are using cottonseed meal, an organic substance, with great success.

"Later we found out that the Mayor's Art Commission had a grant for temporary work on Market Street. We

applied and got \$10,000. Using that money we built the fence and painted the 'LIFE' mural. As in life, all this is temporary. In 1994 we'll break ground for the Life Center."

The two most noticeable things about the garden, for most viewers, are the striking Michael Brown sculpture and the giant sunflowers. Gronberg said the sculpture was originally made for the Fort Mason Garden Show in 1991 and was subsequently transferred to the LIFE garden.

"Michael Brown is a local artist and works for the Exploratorium," he explained. "His sculpture was called 'The Copper Aqueduct' and was built to celebrate the waters of California. It trickles, to symbolize the small amount of water California gets. The design is based on ancient Roman aqueducts. Anyway, the sculpture was dismantled and sat in Mich-



The arch and adjoining pool form part of the pastoral and urban landscape at the Life Center Garden.

(Photo: Freddie Niem)

National News

Dissent in Chicago Over Safer Sex Education for Teens

United Press International

CHICAGO — Students at Barrington High School are learning more than the three Rs. They're also learning about the big C — condom education — and some parents aren't too happy about it.

An AIDS awareness show at the school Wednesday, September 17, featured a demonstration of how to use a condom and some explicit discussion of oral and anal sex.

It was "abhorrently done," said school board member Thomas Roeser, who attended one of the two shows and promised to bring the issue up at the next board meeting.

Several other board members and parents agreed the program, performed by an offshoot of the Joel Hall Dancers called the "Sex Police," was too racy for teen students. A gay dancer and an HIV-positive troupe member were featured prominently and answered students' questions about AIDS.

"It was the wrong message for kids," parent Larry Marino, who stopped by to catch one of the shows, told the *Chicago Tribune*. "It doesn't reinforce what parents are trying to teach."

School principal Edward DeYoung admitted he had

taken some flak from parents over the program, and said he regretted not letting parents know about the program in advance. But he defended the program itself.

A school psychologist, Timothy Hull, said none of the students he talked to expressed any discomfort with the graphic discussion of sex.

Angel Abeede, who runs the Sex Police troupe for Joel Hall, said the high school approved all of the material in advance. The Sex Police have also performed at Crane, Hyde Park, and Westinghouse high schools in Chicago; and Niles West, Highland Park, and the Maine Township high schools in recent months.

One parent who saw the troupe a few years ago at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire said they used to emphasize abstinence as a more viable option to sexual activity.

"I was a little disappointed," said Christine Shusha of the Barrington show. "They mentioned abstinence in an old-fashioned way."

Others in the audience disagreed. David Barber, a youth minister at Village Church in Barrington, praised the dancers for a "good job of presenting the consequences of being sexually active." ▼

ael's living room. He did not know what to do with it, so he asked if we were interested in putting it in the garden.

Chris Jacobson, of Garden Art, who commissioned the piece, raised the money to install it. The shape suggests the Jewish word for life, *l'chaim*, and the artist did not realize it until someone saw it here in the garden and mentioned it. Often you see the word worn around the neck."

Gronberg is also enthusiastic about the sunflowers, which he said are his favorite flower.

"We had one in the garden, the first flower to bloom," he recalled. "I was getting attached to it and then realized, 'This is not what it's about.' And I picked it and

brought it to the hospice. That's where the sunflower is supposed to be. That's its work. The day I cut it everybody said, 'Oh.' But the idea is not to get attached to the garden, this is a working garden, and the vegetables and flowers and herbs have work to do. We take them to the hospice.

"I chose Coming Home Hospice to give the food to. The reason being: we'd walk into Project Open Hand with this little basket of vegetables and they're cooking for 2,000. It wasn't enough, it was just a nice gesture.

"Coming Home has 18 or 20 beds. When I take the food there every single person gets some of it. It's organic, high in vitamins, and the chef is

appreciative. We grow 12 different varieties of greens, and when I go in to Coming Home with my mixed greens for their salad and I transfer it to a big bowl, it smells so good."

"So I took that sunflower to the hospice and the walls turned colorful and bright. The people there did not talk about their illnesses but about the sunflower. It was as big as me! It will change things for people, for a little bit."

Talking in the garden under the bright blue sky, you can sense that every word the man says comes from his heart. As in life, when work begins on the Center, the garden will be gone. But its heart will live on in its tireless volunteer, Paul Gronberg. ▼

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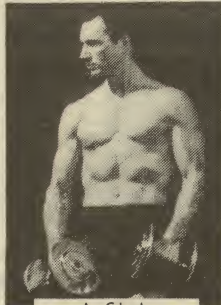


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Pepper

(Continued from page 10)

about lesbian sex, and lesbian porn, and the super raunchy world of the new super-chic lesbian. I honestly couldn't think of a topic further from my own state of mind. My own concerns seem dramatically different these days from that fringe twilight world, inhabited by speed taking, sex-club going, twenty-one year old lesbians. Taking the socialite lesbian lifestyle seriously has become a burden for me, regardless of how important I once considered being trendy to be.

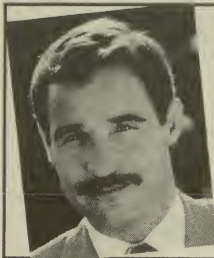
Standing on that street corner, I watched my tireless friend Robert rush by, urging cars to "Back up and turn around" and respect the demonstration site. I watched the fire truck pull up, ready to extinguish the burning boxes, and the police van arrive, and I wondered where all this was heading. As people sat down in the streets to await possible arrest, I paid my silent respects to Sister X and headed home. For there, a small furry beast named Timmi was waiting for me to love her, and gay angst was no longer an excuse for being late. ▼



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California News

Laws For Same-Sex Parents

By Marcy Sheiner

Judy Burle, a legal secretary, and Bunny Olsen, a physical therapy manager, own a roomy split-level in East Oakland where their four-year-old, Daniel, leads visitors by the hand on a house tour, the highlight of which is the large room he shares with his sixteen-month-old brother.

A social worker for the California Department of Social Services (DSS) officially recognized the household as loving and stable; her glowing report eloquently described the love and security provided by Burle, their biological mother through donor insemination, and Olsen, her partner of 13 years.

It's hard to imagine a more solid family unit than that of Burle, Olsen, and their two sons, Daniel and Jesse.

Nonetheless, the social worker recommended that Bunny Olsen be denied the right to adopt Jesse.

DSS policy does not allow unmarried couples to adopt. The rationale behind this policy is that, with two unmarried guardians, "the child does not benefit from a legal marriage."

Burle and Olsen are among dozens of same-sex East Bay couples who have faced the obstacle of providing their children with two legal parents. Burle and Olsen appealed to the courts and won without a struggle. They also went through a similar process when they tried to adopt Daniel. Burle noted that appealing was "a minor irritant. The policy creates a set of attitudes that sustains homophobia."

The American Civil Liberties Union recently delivered DSS a petition with over 2,400 signatures asking for a policy change. Alissa Friedman, Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights chapter, said, "It is ridiculous to equate marriage with stability in the case of lesbian and gay couples, who are not permitted to marry. There are many lesbian and gay couples who have been together for ten, twenty, or even forty years."

National Center for Lesbian Rights executive director Liz Hendrickson said that the policy was put in place in 1987 after the beating death of a child by his adoptive parents, both male. Although Hendrickson considers the policy "an extra hoop to jump



The Gerber leather baby slaps a hand over mommy's mouth at the recent Folsom Street Fair. (Photo: Judi Parks)

through" she has facilitated many such adoptions without a hitch.

In San Francisco and Alameda counties, sympathetic judges regularly overturn DSS rulings. But Burle points out that should a sympathetic judge leave the bench and be replaced by a less enlightened one, things could get tough. Other parents who've been through the process agree. Janette Kiehn, at first frightened when she received the DSS report denying adoption, said that her fears were assuaged when she spent "all of six minutes in front of the judge. It was easy and painless — but I know that's just because of this particular judge."

NCLR legal director Abby Abinanti says a couple usually tries to ascertain whether or not the adoption will be successful before going ahead with it. In more conservative counties, the process can intimidate couples to the point where they won't even try to adopt.

Ironically, it is easier for a single person to adopt than for an unmarried couple, gay or straight. Thus, only one member of an adoption-seeking couple applies in many cases.

The system has other snags as well. In the case of Olsen and Burle, DSS policy would put the fate of their children in the hands of Burle's parents, if something happened to Burle. Burle's parents are supportive of their daughter and her partner, but in other families a child could conceivably end up in foster care. Unless legally adopted, children are also not eligible for parental health-care coverage and social security benefits.

The DSS's chief legal counsel, Larry Bolton, notes, "There's litigation going on all over the country on this issue." He says that staff attorneys are studying ongoing cases, as well as obtaining input from the ACLU and NCLR before making a recommendation to the agency within a few weeks. The DSS Policy, as it now stands, bestows an ironic benefit on unwed couples; the customary \$500 fee for the social worker's home visit and report is waived in cases of denial. That amount can be easily swallowed up in following legal fees — unless, like Burle, one does the paperwork oneself.

While California's policy may reflect and sustain homophobic attitudes, only a handful of counties in ten other states even allow same-sex couple adoptions. Whether or not a California adoption would be recognized in another state is still unknown; according to Abinanti, no such case has yet arisen.

Burle and Olsen aren't taking any chances. Although they lived in Boston for a short period of time, the couple returned to the Bay Area precisely because it was a more congenial place for lesbians to raise children.

"Daniel's family," said Olsen, "is only slightly different from others in his day-care. Some kids have single parents, others are raised by grandparents. That's part of being in the Bay Area."

But the ACLU's Friedman sees it somewhat differently. "We like to think things are rosy here," she said, "and that we've attained recognition. But, in fact, it's not true."

[Note: An earlier version of this story appeared in the East Bay Express.]

Mother Pleads Not Guilty To Child Abduction

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — A woman accused of fleeing to Pittsburgh with her five-year-old daughter, after losing custody to a gay man with no biological ties to the child, pleaded innocent Wednesday, September 22, to felony child abduction.

Catherine Thomas, 46, entered her plea before Los Angeles Municipal Court Commissioner Abraham Kahn.

She was arrested at a Pittsburgh railroad station September 17 when a passen-

ger tipped off authorities after seeing a television show featuring Thomas and her daughter, Courtney.

Thomas, of Thousand Oaks, California, had lost her daughter in July to an openly gay male friend who won custody although he had no biological ties to the child. She is accused of taking the child during a regular visitation and fleeing.

Police said Thomas and her daughter were identified after being featured on the CBS program *Eye to Eye With Connie Chung* on

September 16.

The child was taken into protective custody and was expected to be returned to Kevin Thomas, the gay friend who has legally changed his surname to match the girl's name. A Pennsylvania judge denied Catherine Thomas's request September 22 to review the custody case, and the woman was ordered returned to Los Angeles.

A preliminary hearing was scheduled for September 29 to determine if there is enough evidence for her to stand trial. ▼

It's A Parent: Gay and Lesbian Family Values

by Michael C. Botkin

In the Gay Male Relationships class I teach at City College, I begin each session with a report on gay or lesbian relationships as reflected in the past week's media, asking students to relay any stories they've encountered and providing whatever I've been able to glean myself. It's usually pretty thin going: for several weeks the Michael Jackson molestation scandal was the leading example. But in the past couple of weeks there's been a flurry of gay and lesbian child custody battles in the news: in Virginia, in Seattle, in nearby Fresno, California and in Texas.

On the surface of it we're battling .500 on this issue, since the queers lost in two cases (Virginia and California)

Commentary

and won in two (Seattle and Texas). This compares favorably to the disastrous failure of the campaign to end the ban on gays in the military ("Clinton's White House Echoes Bush's on Gay Ban" read a recent *New York Times* headline), or to the seesaw battle to allow gay-positive curricula in the schools. But this apparent parity fades upon closer examination of the individual cases.

In Virginia a vindictive grandma, offended by her daughter's open homosexuality, claimed custody of her infant granddaughter. The judge declared the lesbian mom unfit by virtue of her sexual orientation, and because she lived with her partner. In Fresno an "unfit" father (so ruled because of his persistent and wide-ranging substance abuse and the fact that he let his buddies molest his teenage daughters) denounced his ex-wife to the county Child Welfare Services as a lesbian with a live-in lover. They couldn't turn kids over to such an obvious scumbag as the father, but they did take them away from their mother and made their return contingent upon her ejecting her lover from the household.

In Seattle a lukewarm mother protested her kid's adoption only after she learned he was going to a gay couple. Ruling on a technicality — her objection came one day after a year-long reconsideration period had expired — and bolstered by the absence of anyone claiming to have fathered the child, the state went ahead and gave the kid to the gay couple.

In Texas the case was even simpler; a lesbian adopted her partner's child, conceived by artificial insemination. Taken together, these cases suggest



that as long as there is no one with legal standing to oppose the adoption it can proceed; but any biological claim — and particularly any claim by a father — automatically supercedes that of any gay parent or would-be parent.

It's distressing that any blood relative to a child can so easily take them away from their lesbian or gay parents. The Virginia grandma had a history of letting her boyfriend molest her children, and to judge from the age information given, she conceived her lesbian daughter when she was 14, which is too young to be legally married in Virginia (although Tennessee allows a woman to be married at age 12, with her parent's consent). The underlying message is that heterosexuals are *a priori* good parents and queers are not; we're allowed the custody only of the throwaways, kids no one else wants.

(There has also been one heterosexual parenting story in the recent news. A Chicago mom, who'd been working the talk-show circuit as an "expert" on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome [SIDS] admitted that she'd murdered all three of her young children "because they cried too much." Cops became suspicious after she lost three kids, presumably to SIDS, in four years; long-delayed examination of the infant corpses revealed that all had clearly been deliberately suffocated. Mom confessed when confronted with the physical evidence, but apparently had intended to keep having kids and offing them until she was stopped.)

Parent qualifications

Parenting is a challenging task and, arguably, the most important chore of any culture. Yet all that is required to be a parent is an ability to conceive or bear a child, even if one lacks all of the other attributes necessary to raise the resulting offspring. State attempts at regulating child welfare are notoriously lax and ineffective at best, and deadly and pernicious at worst. For the most part kids are at the mercy of their parents who can beat them to death for not saying their prayers (as a South Bay couple did last year), fatally deny them necessary medical care (as did recently convicted Christian Scientist parents) or molest them at will (in Tennessee, that "early marriage" state, they tend to define a virgin as "an ugly ten-year-old who can outrun her brothers").

It's time that we began to make some effort to distinguish between the worthy parents and the incompetent ones. Logically, it's best to do this as early in the parenting process as possible. I propose Parent Qualification, a simple test to determine who has the basic skills necessary to raise a child.

Prospective parents would begin the qualification procedure by registering with the local Child Welfare board and applying to raise a pet. The animal can belong to any species that has a demonstrated ability to bond with humans. Dogs are the likeliest candidates, I would think, but cats, birds, and many other species should qualify (although I doubt that snakes

and reptiles could, I leave this to the experts). After an appropriate amount of time a panel of experts reviews the candidate and their test pet. Is it happy and healthy? Does it like its master and the world? Or is it cantankerous and neurotic, inclined to violence and mischief?

If you can't raise a cat, I'll bet you can't raise a kid either. In many ways animals are shrewder judges of human character than are many people. Not long ago I watched a pampered beagle make her happy rounds of my in-laws at a family gathering, going up to each person in turn to have her ears rubbed and express general friendliness. However, when she reached my psychotic

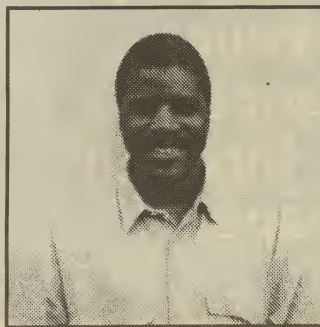
brother-in-law she furtively slunk past him. The dog revealed pathology which my mother-in-law would have denied.

As far as I'm concerned, one could take and pass this qualifying test at a very young age. If a person is capable of bonding at age seven they'll probably be capable of it throughout life. Conversely, a person who cannot bond and/or won't take the effort to prove they can is sure to be an unfit parent. People who fail this test would not be allowed to be the primary care-giver to a child.

I know plenty of parents who couldn't pass this test — and we'll all have to live with their offspring — but I'm sure that gays and lesbians would do as well on it as heterosexuals. It's a test that would defend the kid's right to a safe and healthy home, in contrast to current laws which defend a biological parent's right to ownership of their genetic descendants.

Bigotry against queer parents, tolerated or encouraged in most of this country, takes its greatest toll on the kids who are thus denied loving and nurturing parents. These attitudes, paraded as "Family Values," are in reality a melange of hate and ignorance and, like the military ban on gays and the teaching of homophobia in the schools, fatally undermine the institutions — and people — they are supposed to protect. ▼

Neighborhood Hero



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The Rafiki Services Project is a program of the San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS. "Rafiki", (a Swahili word which means friend and also implies a spirit of living in community) provides emotional and practical support to African Americans living with HIV disease. If you would like to become a volunteer at The Rafiki Services Project, please call (415) 346-5860.

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ATypical, Happy American Family: One Boy, Two Moms, Two Dads, and a Dog

Byron and Chris were married for one year, right out of college. During that time, they had a son, Rob.

Shortly after Rob's birth, Byron came out and met Jim. Then Chris came out and met Maxine.

For 18 years, Byron and Chris have been co-parenting Rob, who spends four nights of the week with Chris and Maxine and their two daughters (ages three and ten), and three nights with Byron. The following is an interview with Byron, conducted for the

new newsletter The Family Next Door.

How have you and Chris created an extended family that seems to function so well?

I've been very lucky to be in this situation. I've always loved kids, but most people in situations like mine don't get to stay involved. We have a real sense of family — parents, siblings, in-laws, ex-in-laws, partners — we've all had a part in Rob's life. This ar-

rangement proves that within a large structure everyone can get over phobias and remain a family. Rob is the link — a child's well-being and welfare can really tie a lot of people together.

How have you and Chris divided up parenting responsibilities?

Chris is the prime parent. She has made the major decisions about his education — what schools to go to and that kind of thing. She kept in touch with teachers, and she

pushed. There was a point during high school that she was ready to kill Rob, but she really motivated him to finish. I am very lucky to have her to take care of those things.

What are some of the things you most enjoyed about being a parent?

When he was young, I read to him a lot. We played a lot of games and did a lot of arts and crafts projects. I love kids' art so I was lucky to have a child artist. These were great outlets for communicating.

It's hard for me to just sit down and talk to my child. I like teaching him how to create his own fun, use creative tools, and use his imagination. And then there are those proud moments that overwhelm you, like the high school graduation — there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

How did you deal with being a gay father?

When we read stories at home, we substituted "Byron and Jim" or "Chris and Maxine" for "daddy and mommy." But when Rob started school, I was aware that he had to deal with peer groups. It was obvious he had gay parents. At his kindergarten graduation, Chris and I couldn't go, so Maxine, Chris' partner, went. She overheard one of Rob's friends say, "There's Rob's other mom."

At that point, living in Oakland, it was no big deal. I remember one time, when Rob was about eight or nine, confronting it. It was one of the few times we discussed it directly. I told him people might have derogatory names for me, like "queer" or "faggot." When other kids were around I saw this look on their faces every now and then — this look like, "Who's the other guy in the front seat of the car where your mom should be?" But it was only a look, it was never verbalized. What were the logistical arrangements to having Rob three nights a week, and what was it like?

Chris' mom provided childcare, which took a lot of the hardship out of being single parents. And on the weekends, Jim was usually around. But on the weekdays, Rob and I were alone together. I set my one-bedroom apartment up so that he had his own space — he had his toys and workspace in one corner of the bedroom. And when he slept over, I took the couch and let Rob have the bedroom.

As a single parent you have much more interface — it's a very dramatic dynamic. When it's just the two of you, the roles can get reversed — the child can be an adult, and you can get into the child mode. It can be fun when you're both children or both adults. I remember watching him like a hawk. And I remember having nightmares of Rob being kidnapped, or being on the bus by himself in downtown Oakland. People always said, "He's very mature." Children of single parents seem to absorb mature realities, like "my par-

ents are gay," early on. The close one-on-one relationship I had when Rob was younger makes the natural separation we're going through now difficult.

How did things go when you, Jim, and Rob were together?

Kids generally want their parents to be happy; they know intuitively that a single parent needs somebody on a different level. There were times when there was a triangle and a "jealousy dynamic" surfaced. Like on an outing I might be more involved with the adult side of the conversation and Rob would pick up on it.

Sometimes Rob would sulk or act out, and I would feel torn in two directions. You have to be aware of it, but it's not always best to give in to the child. It worked the other way, too. Jim would pout, or he would just get in his car and drive home. Jim wasn't living with us, so when he sensed I was more into the child side of the triangle the distance between us would sometimes grow.

What kind of relationship did Jim and Rob have?

In the beginning it was culture shock. There were no kids in Jim's gay scene. There would be this gaggle of queens getting together, and then us with a three or four-year-old. But Jim really enjoyed Rob, especially when he was little. Children have such enthusiasm and spontaneity — adults can learn from it. Jim, being a teacher, went from being in shock to taking pride in bringing Rob up. Jim and Rob had great conversations about things like talking in a little voice when you're at someone else's house and all the finer points of etiquette. Jim could talk about important things in a way that Rob could understand.

Now that Rob's graduated high school, what is he up to?

Rob has a video/computer graphics company with friends. He's very self-motivated, and he's going to do just fine. I told Rob I could care less about the college degree, but I would like him to experience the college environment. I know that decision is up to him.

Rob has a girlfriend he has been going with for two years. I've met her parents, and there hasn't been any problem with my being gay. Marriage could be in the offing. But I'm not ready to be a grandfather — it would kill me, not now, please.

I'm just dealing with being on the other side of 40.

What are your plans now that you are facing an empty nest?

Being a parent at age 23, there were things I denied myself, so there will be some balancing. I look forward to quality time with a significant other, flexibility in scheduling. A child is expensive and takes up a lot of your time. I also plan to refocus on my painting. And I still have Rob's dog to walk, feed, and care for. ▼

Are 54 Percent of Your Neighbors Members of the Religious Right?

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — California has long been associated with a liberal lifestyle, but a poll released Monday, September 27, shows nearly a quarter of its residents consider themselves members of the conservative religious right.

The Field Institute released a California Poll on the subject of religion within the state. Of those asked, 54 per-

cent said their religious beliefs do not influence their political viewpoints.

However, 21 percent of the respondents said they carried over their conservative religious slant to politics and lifestyle choices. The majority of those who identified themselves with the religious right were members of the Republican Party and voted for George Bush in 1992.

The pollsters also found that the percentage of Califor-

nians who label themselves as "Born Again" has risen from 24 percent in a 1980 poll to 32 percent at present.

The religious right also differed greatly from the stereotypical liberal Californian in several areas. More than two thirds condemned "the homosexual lifestyle" and felt by a two-to-one margin that gays should not serve in the military. ▼

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Bay Area Lesbians' Magazine For Gay and Lesbian Parents

by Dennis Conkin

An Oakland lesbian couple who are the parents of a three-year-old boy have launched a newsletter that fills a critical information gap for lesbian and gay parents around the country.

The Family Next Door, a bi-monthly 16-page desk-top publication already has a circulation of about 1,000 and a subscriber list of 100, according to publisher Lisa Orta.

Orta says the idea for the newsletter came when she and her partner Karen Rust were sitting around the dinner table one night last December with the godmothers of their child Gary.

"I was complaining about my job as a high school English teacher and one of them said why don't you start a newsletter for lesbian and gay parents," Orta recalled.

The idea was so instantly compelling and powerful that the group stayed up till 3 a.m. over the dinner table brainstorming article and story ideas. Orta and Rust lived with the idea until April, when they began in earnest to create the newsletter.

According to Orta, most readers are interested in stories about the first-person experiences of other parents, information about communicating with pediatricians, day care providers, and teachers about gay families and their children's needs; and other parenting information—dealing with adoption and other legal matters, family issues such as grandparents and other relatives, and starting support groups.

Positive models

"I want to share models—especially positive models—of ways to deal with parenting and family questions to which there are no answers in the mainstream media," she said.

Although the subscription readership is concentrated in the Bay Area, a third of it is from lesbian and gay parents in small towns around the country who seek support and information—and subscribers aren't always gay parents.

"A lot of doctors and psychologists have expressed a real interest for information about things their clients are going through, and look to us for insight," Orta said.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, Orta told the *Bay Area Reporter*, with "hundreds of calls"—and only one negative call from a homophobe, on whom Orta promptly hung up.

"One of of hundreds is a pretty good ratio," she laughed.

Orta, 38, a Bay Area native, says that she has always wanted to be a mother—and tried a stint as a high school teacher to see if that would take care of the urge: it didn't, so she and Rust, who have been together six years, decided to have a child—and "are trying" for another.

Subscriptions to *The Family Next Door* are \$50 a year. The newsletter plans to expand to a 20-page format within the year.

"There aren't any ads, so there's lots of space for information," Orta said. ▼

"By the year 2000 it will be absolutely OK to be lesbian or gay, and diversity will be valued and celebrated."

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The Experience, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit educational corporation that produces "The Experience," a workshop designed to facilitate communities of people living more powerful lives, and subsequently enabling the fulfillment of this vision.

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Tuition for *The Experience* is \$395. You can register with a \$50 non-refundable deposit, and the balance will be due two weeks prior to your workshop.



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Fundies Win One

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO - A federal appeals court ruled unanimously Monday, September 20, that women seeking abortions at a Portland, Oregon, health clinic were not a protected class under federal civil rights law.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals overruled a federal judge's decision granting a permanent injunction and \$6,500 in damages against an anti-abortion group that picketed and blocked doors to the Portland Feminist Women's Health Center in 1985-86.

But the court said the clinic might still be entitled to

the injunction and damages based on state law, and sent the case back to Judge Helen Frye of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon for further proceedings.

The clinic, which argued that the noisy, confrontative demonstrators sought to deprive women of their right to an abortion, had attempted to argue on appeal that the demonstrators' conduct was directed towards women in general.

But the 9th Circuit said the clinic was bound by its earlier arguments, which were rejected this year by the U.S. Supreme Court in a similar case. ▼

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 178373

The following person is doing business as 1) THE MR. S.F. HAIRY CHEST CONTEST; 2) THE MISTERS S.F. HAIRY CHEST CONTEST, 544 Church St., #302, San Francisco, CA 94114; PHILIP M. TURNER, 544 Church St., #302, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date August 27, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed PHILIP M. TURNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 27, 1993.

September 23, 30 October 7, 14, 1993. L-178373

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 178711

The following person is doing business as H.O.P.E. (HIV OUTREACH PREVENTION AND EDUCATION), 931-A Bosworth St., San Francisco, CA 94114; JAMES M. DIGGINS, 931-A Bosworth St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed JAMES M. DIGGINS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 09, 1993.

September 23, 30 October 7, 14, 1993. L-178711

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 178877

The following person is doing business as FLOWERS AND THINGS, 468 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114; YALE L. SALSGIVER, 430 Castro St., #4, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date September 14, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Y.L. SALSGIVER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 14, 1993.

September 23, 30 October 7, 14, 1993. L-178877

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 125156

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as SMALL CHANGE, at 1234 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on December 29, 1988. Name and address of registrant: SHEILA KORER, 524 45th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121. This business was conducted by a individual. Signed: SHEILA KORER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date August 25, 1993. Bruce H. Jamison, County Clerk-Recorder, by Frederick Garcia.

September 9, 16, 23, 30, 1993. L-125156

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By: Jim Kavanaugh

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Lost Soldier Found in Amsterdam Straight Out of Holland

by Robert Julian

An unlikely movie star, Andrew Kelley grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts. While dancing for a small modern dance company in Boston, he was discovered by Hans Vanmaen, a choreographer for the Dutch National Ballet, who brought him to Holland. That was eight years ago. Now, at the age of 27, Kelley finds himself in the title role of Roeland Kerbosch's *For a Lost Soldier*, the story of a romance between a young Dutch boy and a Canadian soldier during World War II.

Based on an autobiographical novel by Rudi van Dantzig (former director of the Dutch National Ballet) *For a Lost Soldier* was a runaway hit at this year's San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Playing the soldier opposite Maarten Smit (as the young boy) is clearly an experience Kelley is somewhat uncomfortable with, even now. Speaking by telephone from Amsterdam, where he is finishing his eighth season with the Ballet, the hunky Kelley, whose screen presence made queer hearts flutter at the film festival, admits the role was a great opportunity. But for a married man who is the father of a young child, the experience was not without its difficulties.

* * *

Robert Julian: Did you have any acting experience before you made *For a Lost Soldier*?

Andrew Kelley: Not speaking parts — you can tell that from the film. My mother said, "All you do is mumble."

How did you get the part?

I came in to work and there was a portion of the script hanging from my locker. I looked at it and Rudi, who is still a choreographer with the Ballet, said "I want you to go to this audition." I went that afternoon and read the wrong part, the part for one of the ordinary soldiers. They put a camera in my face, I started reading, and they said "Stop, those aren't the right lines." They wanted me to read this long monologue for the main character, and they said I could go out and practice for 15 minutes. I came back and read it for the camera. When I went home, my wife said, "You blew it, this was a big opportunity you missed!"

"Rudi was eight or nine years old and this guy basically raped him."

They called me back on the phone the next day and asked me to do the part. I



Jeroen (Maarten Smit, right) finds himself drawn to soldier Wait (Andrew Kelley, right) in the film *For a Lost Soldier*, based on Rudi van Dantzig's autobiographical novel of the same name

said okay. I couldn't believe it. It was just too much.

Who put the script on your locker?

They had two or three people in the ballet they thought were the right types, and they put a few pages on different people's lockers. I had read the book and thought it was really something. I asked Rudi what this guy was like and he said he was a lot like me. That's all he would say. The things that happen in the book they didn't show in the film, because then it would be rated X.

What sort of things?

In the book Rudi was eight or nine years old and this guy basically raped him. That's how it started anyway. Their relationship lasted just one winter.

The film presents the relationship in a very idyllic or idealized fashion. Is the film true to the tone of the relationship as it's described in the book?

No. Well, it's difficult to describe. When you read what happened to Rudi you get these insights into what he felt, and his memories. In the film you have things implied and toned down — really toned down, especially for Holland, because in Holland they show everything.

How was the film received critically in Europe?

Pretty badly. But I only know about what they wrote in Holland — they said it was sort of like an ABC After School Special. The Dutch are used to a more frank and explicit presentation of sex than Americans. In America we're more tolerant of drive-by shootings, the Dutch are more tolerant of sex. They said it looked like a coffee commercial or dishwashing detergent ad.

Rudi, the author, is gay. Does he look at the soldier as someone who awakened him sexually or someone who abused him?

I don't know. Those parts of the book are written as reminiscences. He describes the soldier's smell, his cracked lips, his strength. The soldier was big and strong — he chased the Germans away — so he felt like the man was his protector in some way, even though what they did together hurt him. I read one thing from New York's Museum of Fine Arts which said the movie deals with man/boy love. If you think of the man being 45 and the boy 17, that's one thing. But when the man is 27 and the boy is nine, that's not an awakening, but a crime. But because of the way things are described in the

(Continued on page 58)

A Boy's Own Story

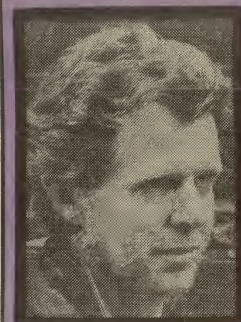
For a *Lost Soldier*
by Rudi van Dantzig;
The Bodley Head, \$29

by Eric Hellman

Certain provocateurs trumpet the film *For a Lost Soldier* and the novel (of the same title) as a pederast's double-delight. But this is false promotion — if not flagrant distortion — of real-life events and their transformation into art. The film and the book are too personal and poetic to be reduced to stereotypical generalizations about man-boy love.

It is also reasonably safe to say that the film, although lovely and engaging, is the lesser of the two works. Yet it is still a pleasure to watch (except for the treacherous "contemporary" prologue and coda) and the movie captures both the central events and spirit of the novel. The book, written by Rudi van Dantzig, is vastly more subtle and complex in its mixture of emotion with images and sensory perceptions. The result is a dazzling portrait of an adolescent's inner anguish and maturing sensibility.

For a Lost Soldier is also, most truthfully, a fictionalized



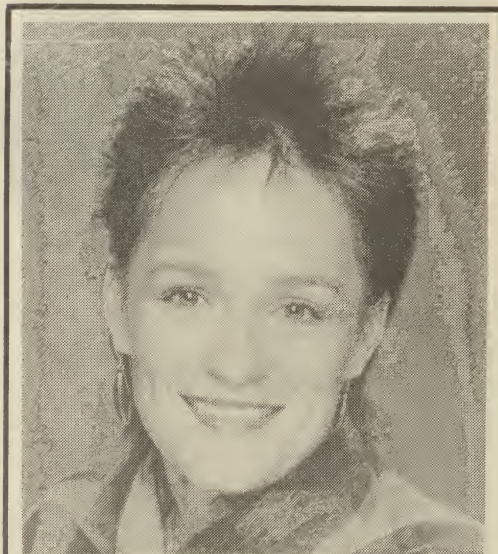
For a Lost Soldier author Rudi van Dantzig is the artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet.

memoir, one where van Dantzig reveals a remarkable segment from his own sexual awakening as an eleven-year-old boy at the end of World War II in the Netherlands. In particular, the novel centers on the youth's shifting perceptions, a combination of joyful innocence and adult confusion. *For a Lost Soldier*, the novel, is a wonderful example of individual perception made public within a literary context. But amid the book's record of events, and its many passages of extreme beauty, there is also a provocative and deliciously steamy tale to be told.

Dreamscape

Jeroen, the central character, is a dreamy, "sensitive" boy whose parents, and new baby brother, have very little

(Continued on page 58)



Marvelous Marilyn

The wonderfully funny Marilyn Pitman is back in the Bay Area after an East Coast stint. Her new show, *Thank You for Sharing*, plays at Josie's through Oct. 10. The B.A.R.'s Stephanie Rosenbaum talks to the comic on page 43.

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by Orland Outland

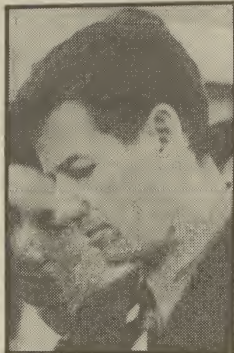
Talk of the Town: Sam Sanchez of *Spunk* writes to amend an item in a recent edition of this column. *Spunk* published an item, reprinted here, saying that the SF Health Department order closing the baths had expired and the Midtown Spa chain was scouting locations here in the city — all still true. But *Spunk* thought it was the LA chain of that name doing the scouting; it's actually the Texas-based chain of the same name. Baths? In Texas? Mooooo! And they're not the only ones: Sanchez says that Berkeley's Steamworks is looking at a location in the Tenderloin. And you thought the most exciting new business opening in this town was going to be CostCo.

I had a nice chat recently with Richard Glatzer, writer/director of Gay Film Fest fave *Grief*, who'd just gotten back from the Toronto Film Festival. You can get the dish on Glatzer and *Grief* in an upcoming issue of *Movieline*, but after I finished that interview, I just had to ask him, for OutThere readers, for the straight poop on *Grief* star Alexis Arquette. Was he really married? Going straight? Tragically parted from friend Luke Perry? No, he's not married, Glatzer said. But "I wouldn't say Alexis was above generating fake publicity, either." Could Arquette be looking for a "straighter" image? "He's really out — he used to be a go-go dancer at my club every week [Glatzer promoted the popular Sit and Spin], doing performances like his 'Salute to Desert Storm,' where he had this Marilyn Monroe impersonator come up while they played 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon,' and she'd tie a yellow ribbon around his dick." In other words, even if he really wanted an image transplant, it's too late.



Alexis Arquette: Too late for a change.

And that B.A.R. interview I never could pin Arquette down for? "All I can say is that he's 24," Glatzer said. "When you really need him, he'll be there, but when you don't 100 percent need him, he gets some sort of kick out of flaking on people. He probably had a hangover or ran off with some boy for a week." And there's been no "tragic parting" between Arquette and Luke Perry, because there was no passionate romance to break up. When all was said and done, I realized what the most amazing thing was about this interview: here was a film director



Calvin Klein: Where was Mrs. K?

insisting to an entertainment writer that his leading man was absolutely, positively not heterosexual! And that, kids, is a Hollywood first.

But bathhouses and naked go-go boys out here in the West seem like so much innocent frolic compared with what goes on back in the corrupt and decadent East — East Coast, that is. According to *Spy*, the Hamptons were the site of yet another party starring Bianca Jagger, Calvin Klein, and writer and former *Andy Warhol's Interview* editor Bob Colacello. When the open bar



Edmund White's in *Elle*.

closed at the host's house, "the party moved to a local gay club called the Swamp." Calvin Klein? In a gay bar? Mooooo! "Colacello kept the fun alive. Approaching two considerably younger men, Colacello first tried to make friends by means of simple groping. When this tactic failed, the scribe leaned closer and asked, 'So, you got any coke?'"

The October issue of *Elle* is worth picking up, even if you've sworn on your mother's grave that nobody will make you wear velvet this fall. There's a decent-sized blurb on the new biography of Jean Genet by Ed-



J. Edgar Hoover and Ironsides: Something in common.

mund White and dating advice for HIV-positive guys (you don't need to tell him on the first date, but do tell him before it gets serious), but best of all, *Elle* decided to give its readership some fashion advice from celebuntante drag queens Lady Bunny and Lahoma Van Zandt. Lady B's most treasured beauty secret? Knowing how to turn that pimple into a beauty mark with liquid eyeliner. Bunny says she models herself after Barbara Eden; Lahoma goes for that "Farrah Fawcett in *The Burning Bed* look." Bunny's biggest fashion don't is the bicycle pouch, while Lahoma has had it up to here with the all-black look.



Is Brit director Derek Jarman suffering from Andy Warhol overdose?

Premiering at the Teluride Festival, it's Derek Jarman's latest opus, *Blue*. *Variety* says this flick, Jarman's "conceptual report on his worsening conditions with AIDS ... consists of 76 minutes of a blue screen with the director speaking on the soundtrack." Sounds like somebody's been watching too many old *Andy Warhol* movies, but if anybody can carry off something as odd as this, it's Jarman.



Jean Genet together with Lady Bunny.

Now It Can Be Told, Episode CXVIII: "The Hidden Life of TV's Raymond Burr" screams *People* magazine. Interestingly, stories on Burr in both *People* and *TV Guide* acknowledge that Burr lived with Raymond Benevides for 30 years, but not only do both stories refuse to come out and say they were lovers, but in both magazines Benevides is called Burr's "companion and business partner." Right, and J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson were bridge buddies. Has somebody's lawyer been busy making threatening phone calls? ▼

Merry and Maniacal Marionettes at Architrave

Art on a Wire

by Roberto Friedman

"If you listen to the dolls, they will tell you the history of their world," Albuquerque artist Timothy Cummings says of his creations, hand-crafted personalities which spring to life from wood, clay, papier-mache, cloth, and glass eyes. Cummings is in town while his more composed dolls are on show at Architrave on Hayes Street, and a few, more uninhibited ones frolic on erotic display at Mark I. Chester's Sexart salon on Folsom.

At Architrave, the dolls — perhaps more accurately described as marionettes, since they dangle from strings attached to head and arms — are hung from brackets or from the rungs of a ladder, a simple but elegant display which permits the puppets to move when the spirit moves them and face the direction they choose. One already sold, *Angel of Judgment Day*, absolutely refused to meet my stare no matter how I positioned myself. The rest of the cast — apparitions, figures in masquerade, a *Diablo de Voodoo*, a Renaissance man in period costume — are far more animate, striking poses perhaps in attempts to seduce an owner.

Cummings begins by molding a face, then lets the spirit therein tell him what its body should be, what it wants to wear. The artist's attention to detail is most apparent in the dolls' dresses, which he fashions from pieces of vintage clothing. All of the hands and some of the limbs are made from twigs of an old cottonwood tree in his New Mexico backyard. A particularly striking figure, *Scream Box (Altar for Silent Pains)*, has a carved box for a chest; when you unclasp its latch, the door swings open to reveal a sword-pierced heart.

Puppet Punk

I can tell that twentysomething Cummings is enjoying his stay in San Francisco, though his work seems deeply rooted in the Southwest. Not only do the dolls, composites of found objects, clothing, and wood from his home in Corrales, NM, resonate with the Southwest, but his paintings — a small collection of which are on display here — also belie their origins. Only a pair of impish grunge children seem as if they have walked off the city streets and onto their marionette strings. *Grunge Boy* has a nose ring, white-boy dreads, knit cap, and goatee, and his female counterpart has all the right trappings as well. Cummings tells me he created these two for the kids in San Francisco.

The artist, dressed the day we meet in painted leather jacket and sheer, leopard-print top, would make a pretty good doll himself. I suggest a self-portrait.

Homoerotic Glory

The miniature oils, canvas panels placed in settings hammered out from tin are obviously inspired by the artist's interest in the folk art found in Mexican churches. The paintings have the look of *retablos*, altarpieces with religious imagery displayed during the *Dia de los Muertos* celebration.

However, while their style is religious or traditional, their subjects are sexual tableaux presented in all their homoerotic glory. Consider the mutual oral copulation going on in *Lucky Horoscope*, or the entangled male bodies in *Bed*. One piece is a lovely nude study of a *Boy Saint*; another, a boy who falls to earth as a *Magician*. There is also the plaguesome imagery of *Dreaming the Disease* and *Sickness Ripens*.



Scream Box (Altar for Silent Pains), one of Timothy Cummings' striking creations.

their overall effect is more grotesque than stimulating. Cummings' puppets, which have evolved from earlier, skeletal forms to the more elaborate, rococo beings which hang at Architrave, are most revealing when fully adorned.

"Marionettes, Puppets & Paintings" is the first solo show to be presented at Architrave, which proprietor Tim Higbee calls a "creative design store" exhibiting hand-crafted furniture and arty decor. Heretofore the gallery has given only group shows of artisan design. The dolls in the back room can be heard calling out for more exposure for individual artists. Timothy Cummings' menagerie of enchanted spirits is a lively start.

Morphos Gallery

If you are dropping into galleries on post-freeway Hayes Street, you should not miss "Threads," a showing of Jayne Shor's work at Morphos Gallery. Abstract oils on small panels mounted on found pieces of fence post or antique lumber, these paintings are profoundly tied to their sites, and each has a story to tell of environmental destruction or a warning of imminent despoliation. Onto such a backdrop Shor has painted luminous miniatures evocative of atmospheric landscape and apocalypse. ▼

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Albuquerque artist Timothy Cummings poses in front of his marionettes, including a homage to Frida Kahlo on right.

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Theatre

Alfaro Confronts Latino, Gay Invisibility

Postcard From the Edge

by Jeremy Quittner

Under its pall of forgetfulness, the American psyche is notably rank with categories and exclusions. It seems we do and do not function as a society without packaging experience into a blur of explosively divisive minutiae. Nowhere is this more evident than in the sensitive area of race relations. Just over a year after the LA riots, one wonders what has happened to all the smoldering tempers.

Performance art is largely a playground for social documentary and political complaint. And Luis Alfaro's *Speaking in Tongues*, recently part of this year's Solo Mio Festival at the Climate Theatre, attempts to deal with many of these complex and emotional issues.

Identity Crisis

Alfaro's gift for storytelling is immediately apparent from his no-nonsense introduction. Bursting onstage before the lights have dimmed and the last strains of Petula Clark's "Downtown" have died away, he begins his monologue. He ricochets from vignette to vignette, describing, with equal parts force and equanimity, the revolving Madonna that blesses everything in his childhood home, a first kiss, and roller derby. His seriousness and urgency leave you with the impression that this man has a significant story to tell.

Alfaro segues delicately into the queer content of his piece in a way that makes you realize he's not talking so much about being gay as

about being Latino, gay, and American. He reinvents categories for himself, rather than letting categories classify him out of existence.

The gay themes of his piece surface slowly, in the middle of barrio stories about his life growing up in the Pico-Union section of Los Angeles. When he recounts his first impossible crush on a boy named Angel, he also



Luis Alfaro is proof that the right little black dress can take one far.

reminisces about the overall machismo of the neighborhood which makes his infatuation unrealizable. This partial coming-out story is mixed with a coda about boredom in church and his resolve to imagine the devil there. Finally, there is this bit of remorse: "I got so sad thinking of the devil and an angel at the same time."

An extremely poignant part of the performance, which touches on class divisions, tells of trick-or-treating in Beverly Hills as a boy. For three years in a row, he tells us, he went as Casper the

Friendly Ghost, because the sheet was affordable.

Alfaro and his brothers wanted to go to the rich part of town, the part of Los Angeles where their father worked occasionally as a plumber so as to get real chocolate from the wealthy and to glimpse the interior of a Beverly Hills palace. An uptight white woman answers the first door and asks disdainfully where the boys are from. When Alfaro's older brother says, "Downtown," her disgust is transparent, and the young Alfaro feels queasy with discomfort.

Members Only

His monologue shows how race and class relations also preside over his interactions with the gay community, and he describes the way he lives on the margins of both the Latino and queer communities. The sister of his friend Julio, who has died of AIDS, begins her eulogy to him by condemning his lifestyle in front of a mostly gay congregation. Alfaro intones, "Straight people ruin our lives and our deaths," but also adds, "Queers want me when they want color." Obviously, to Alfaro, queer means white.

Although at times his piece relies too heavily on tried truisms of performance-art sensationalism, his method, nonetheless, is a vehicle for his message. Alfaro wants to "disentangle from the crush of cultural collision." Like many, he is fed up with the myth of multiculturalism and the whitewashing it implies. Alfaro rejoices in his heritage as a Mexican-American; he is essentially hopeful, but guardedly optimistic. ▽

Theatre

Performance Artist David E. Johnston

Samba Expressionism

by Orland Outland

David E. Johnston is rapidly becoming a man who needs no introduction. As a performance artist, he packed Cafe Du Nord with his piece *ArtStar*. He also offered up a bizarre but genuinely fond tribute to Dolly Parton in *Gone Dollywood*. Now, in his incarnation as a "singing sensation" with his group

Latino Fan Club, he has assembled a show that might best be described as samba-flavored house music in a German expressionist cabaret.

In addition to his *ArtStar* sidekicks, Rebecca Gleason and Nicole Claro, the show features a samba band (the "Latino Fan Club Maricon Orchestra"); a flautist; an opera diva; two, count 'em, two samba showgirls in full Carnival regalia; and sharp,

classy slides made especially for the show by local artist Austin Newsom. Johnston is becoming a master at staging extravagantly dramatic shows with a "big" feel to them in itty-bitty locales.

Johnston's songs are deceptive. Listening with half an ear in a crowded bar, you'll hear smooth, usually up-tempo music, but pay attention to the lyrics, and you'll get a

(Continued on next page)



David E. Johnston (center), with two members of the Latino Fan Club, seems destined for great things.

Theatre

Robin Karfo's 'Cages'

Karfo, Karfo and More Karfo

by Deborah Peifer

Going to the theatre is always a crap shoot, and in the case of Robin Karfo's latest effort, "crap" is the operative word. *Cages* is a quasi-solo piece in which Karfo plays all the characters, a choice that appears to have been made in order for Karfo to be the only person on

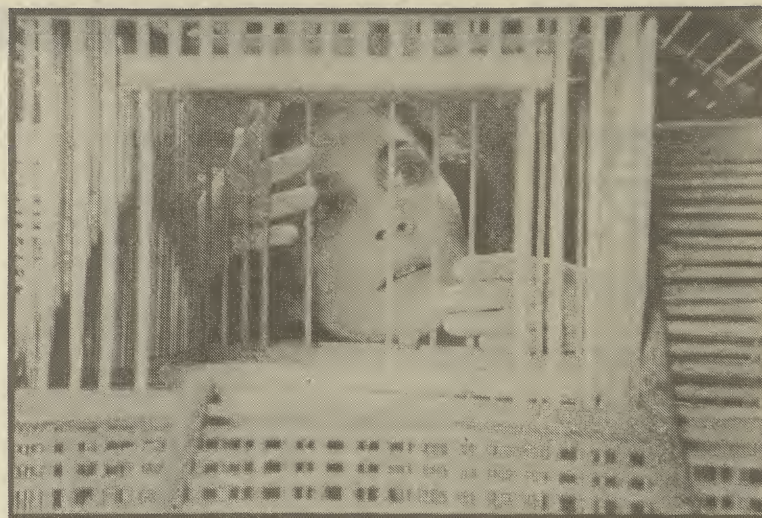
flashforwards, and every other kind of flash except hot. An angel manifests via voice-over to spout pretentious pseudo-poetry.

The angel (amazingly, Karfo allowed another actor, Baomi Butts-Bhanji, to play the disembodied voice) tells Annabelle about her tenacity in holding on to life even as her mother attempted to abort her. The implication seems to be that Little Fetus Annabelle was conscious of the possibility of her own death, and actively worked to save her own life. Yeah, right.

Once the angel visits, Little Fetus Annabelle is on a perilous journey to self-awareness, or self-discovery, or self-something, which seems to involve our now-born hero spending a lot of time in a pigeon coop. I don't know why that is, and neither writer nor actor Karfo explains it. Lucy and Jack break up (that's Annabelle's fault, too), Lucy achieves fame as a country singer, Jack loses all in his efforts to comfort Annabelle in her special room at Bellevue ... stuff happens, but at no point did I care about any of it, or them.

Psycho-babble

Through it all, we have Karfo, Karfo, and more Karfo. Using film and video, Karfo manages to have remarkably stilted conversations with herself in various guises. Taped Karfo, as Jack, fights with Live Karfo as Lucy. Taped Lucy appears on a big TV show while Live Jack watches her. The use of video



Robin Karfo as Annabelle, who "is on a perilous journey to self-awareness, or self-discovery, or self-something" and spends a lot of time in a pigeon coop while doing so.

is annoying and illustrates the patent dishonesty of referring to this piece as a solo work.

Karfo is a fine actor, but whoever told her that she was capable of playing three completely different, believable characters, did her a grave disservice — almost as great a disservice as the person who told Karfo she could write. Karfo's script is full of psycho-babble, counterfeit characters, and imitation poetry; if she possesses any skill as a writer it was not evident in this awful script.

Somebody smart (Lorca, maybe?) said that all that was needed to create great theatre was "bare boards, two actors, and a passion." The extraordinary solo performances we've

seen in San Francisco prove that a single actor, inspired by compelling passion, supported by great skill, can produce theatrical magic. However, I don't think a passion for ego-tripping and self-promotion qualifies. *Cages* is

as self-indulgent and inept a production as I have seen in years. ▼

Cages
Intersection for the Arts, through Oct. 17
626-3311



Robin Karfo as the saxophone-playing Jack.

stage, not out of any compelling dramatic necessity.

The plot concerns the trials of Lucy the lounge singer, her saxophone-playing husband, Jack, and their whacked-out, and unwanted, daughter, Annabelle. The story of these dysfunctional eccentrics is told in flashbacks,

(Continued from previous page)

whole other story. Some songs are just plain fun, like "Esta Noche," about the bar of the same name; "Buena Vista," about the joys of that lovely and romantic local playground; "Straight-Acting Guy," his most infectiously boppy and hook-laden song; and for pure camp extravaganzas, the hot salsa cover of "Justify My Love."

Chilling Chorus

But then there are other songs, such as "Manuel," about a young student at the Fashion Institute of Technology who tests HIV positive and sinks into heroin addiction, emerging from his drugged stupor only to tell David about his vision of heaven, where "God wore Christian Dior/And Jesus wore Halston/Fitted a size too small." Whoops of delight issued from the crowd at Paula's Clubhouse at the description of divine sartorial splendor, but for those who were paying attention to the song from the beginning, the chorus delivers a chill rather than a belly laugh — the humor is there, but it's of a mordant sort.

Johnston owes musical debts to Brecht/Weill, Xavier Cugat, Laurie Anderson, Jim Morrison, and Cole Porter, to name a few. That makes it sound like a mess, but it's

anything but. This show is not so much "cabaret" as it is a use of the cabaret genre to create a performance piece.

One of the new songs, "150 Cielo Drive," is a performance piece in itself. Opera diva (and San Francisco Opera Chorus member) Darla Wigginton sings lines out of the book *Helter Skelter*, while Johnston, Gleason, and Claro sing the story of the Manson murders.

The song could have devolved easily into camp, but instead, it's tragic and moving. It feels like a selection from a modernist opera, something John Adams of *Nixon in China* and *Death of Klinghoffer* fame might do. It's a new direction for Johnston, and a more complicated and ambitious piece of music than one is accustomed to hearing in a small local club.

And let's face it — how much longer can David E. Johnston stay in San Francisco? We love our town, but it's not the cultural center of the universe (yes, I know it should be, but it's not). He is, simply, brilliant; he has the talent to take on and conquer New York as an artist or even LA as a singer. The run of this show at Paula's is over, but popular demand may bring it back at Paula's or another venue. It is not to be missed — if only so that you can say you knew him when. ▼



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Bay Area Reporter

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"ASK" ISADORA ALMAN 10/9 2:00 PM
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JIM DODGE 10/15 6:30 PM
STONE JUNCTION
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REV. CECIL WILLIAMS 10/16 12:30 PM
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WIDE OPEN DOOR
SHAKTI GAWAIN 10/16 5:00 PM
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Theatre

Ann Magnuson Weaves Tangled Web

Home Alone Hip

by Erin Blackwell

You don't usually need a press packet to make sense of an evening's performance, but in the case of Ann Magnuson's one-woman show at the Alcazar, *You Could Be Home Now*, it would help.

Without inside information, Jane/John Q. Public are at a loss to make much narrative sense of the montage of monologues Magnuson herself has likened to a web woven by a spider on LSD: "full of crazy angles and bizarre designs ... it all still hung together." Well, maybe in the eyes of another acid-crazed arachnid.

Only foreknowledge of Magnuson's hip, avant-garde, Lower East Side neo-vaudevillian aura could explain the preview audience laughing its way through an opening monologue designed to set the scene, not bring the house down. Unless reluctant theatergoers were fantasizing themselves in Studio City, as guests invited to supply a laugh track.

There was nothing inherently funny in the redhead's entering a dark stage with a flashlight to read an old diary entry describing the death of a dog, done in MTV-style psychedelic pixels. Unless some Americans, scared out of their minds and feeling guilty about the senseless violence their hip asses are heir to, now become hysterical at the mere mention of death.

Having paid the full \$17.50, the opening night audience exhibited more self-respect. But like the hipper discount crowd, they seemed more eager to laugh than to listen. Their premature rolling in the aisles doesn't leave the performer any room to grow on them and may keep them from getting the gist of what the little lady's trying to get across.

Home Sweet Home

A caustic quick-change artist, Magnuson evokes a

handful of self-parodying women living on the edge in her hometown of Charlotte, West Virginia. Yankees take heart: Magnuson's insights into our nation's mutating suburban landscapes aren't site-specific. *You Could Be Home Now* addresses the moral and emotional homelessness of just about everybody in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

While Magnuson is fairly convincing when she pokes fun at our declining civilization, she fails to build the kind of dramatic tension, linear or weblike, that sustains an audience's interest. Only near the end of a lengthy 90 minutes do things get moving, in every sense of the word. That's when *Home* becomes synonymous with Paradise. Her haunting rendition of Lyell B. Clay's "West Virginia's Home to Me," to simple (albeit taped) piano accompaniment, becomes an eerily reassuring invitation to the Afterlife.

Another highlight, "Hello Death, Goodbye Avenue A," is a ballad from her *Bongwater* album that devolves into stream-of-consciousness patter on the search for meaningful life in the universe. Strumming an acoustic guitar while spewing visual, verbal, and musical asides, Magnuson suddenly sat revealed in all her glory. Despite an ability to more-or-less tap dance, baton-twirl, mimic accents, etc., what sets her apart is her synapses: it doesn't matter what she's thinking about or even what she thinks, but how her mind operates.

Fuzzy Direction

Pity, then, that David Schweizer's conventional direction dams the fluidity of Magnuson's thought waves with pat, show-bizzy staging, while Tom Dennison's "set"—two symmetrically placed ladders—serves to dwarf the performer and remind us how costly union labor is. The very seamlessness of Magnuson's delivery, fun-



Ann Magnuson: Her web needs reworking.

(Photo: Paula Court)

Magnuson fails to build the kind of dramatic tension that sustains an audience's interest.

automate the life of this live performance. (Only an unintentionally Brechtian sound technician, operating a well-lit tape recorder in the middle of the house, regularly reanimated our suspended disbelief.)

The undeniable Magnuson magic could use some collaborators who'll help this tripping spider weave a less tangled theatrical web. ▼

You Could Be Home Now
The Alcazar Theatre, through
Oct. 4
541-0800

neled through an invisible body mike and timed to pre-recorded music cues, tends to

Music

Worthy Successor

by John Blanco

Nirvana
In Utero
Sub Pop Records

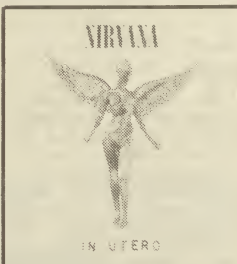
In an *Advocate* cover story from last February, Nirvana vocalist Kurt Cobain talked about the dread he felt as his band was preparing to record the follow-up to their multi-platinum record *Nevermind*. He explained that he'd recently come back from a European tour to find lyrics he'd written and guitar parts he'd taped either stolen or destroyed. "I don't have anything to go back on at all," he was quoted as saying. "It's pretty scary."

This predicament actually seemed to help Nirvana come up with a looser, coarser, and more live-sounding record with its new album *In Utero*. When compared to *Nevermind*, it's also sizably less

commercial. The music here has been stripped considerably of its popness and accessibility, which will serve to rid the band of less devoted fans, at least those who—to quote the last album's "In Bloom"—"like all the pretty songs."

Cobain begins *In Utero* by commenting on megasuccess and his post-*Nevermind* state of mind: "Teenage angst has

A disgust with fame and the music business pervades *In Utero*.



paid off well/Now I'm old and bored," he sings on the album opener, "Serve the Servants." A disgust with fame and the music business pervades the record, especially "Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge on Seattle" and "Radio Friendly Unit Shifter," which probably spells out the irony of its title a little too obviously with its initial wash of white noise.

The former tune is interesting mostly for its implicit analogy between the tormented Seattle-born actress and

(Continued on next page)

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Marilyn Pittman Launches New Solo Show She'll Say Anything

by Stephanie Rosenbaum

Fresh from a stand-up stint in Provincetown, Marilyn Pittman, one of the Bay Area's most popular lesbian comics, is back with a new one-woman show at Josie's. *Thank You for Sharing*, billed as "an edgy romp through life in the '90s," promises to combine Pittman's signature improv style with a more tightly scripted framework of personal, political, and spiritual ruminations. If this sounds more like a Marianne Williamson workshop than a comedy show, think again. After all, this is the comic who brought you the *Joy of Lesbian Sex* as an acid trip, and claimed that her real goal in performance is "to make people laugh until their faces are about to blow up."

"I'm not safe! I'm liable to say anything!" pronounces Pittman, picking through her Caesar salad during a late afternoon lunch at Pasqua. "Something about turning 40 — I just became more brave, more calm, and not afraid about what anybody's going to say or think. If I can't follow my own truth on stage, then I might as well go back on the air where there's lots of restrictions as to what you can say. I'm edgy; I'll say what everybody's thinking about but won't say. I'm trying to talk about taboos, the other things that we're not allowed to talk about."

Spiritual Approach

Several of those "other things" crop up in *Thank You for Sharing*: "The Fag Within" (on lesbians who channel masculine sexual energy); "The Gay Agenda" (on the TVC's anti-gay video); and "Fighting on Vacation" (more fun than slides). The show follows an inner-outer progression, a path mirroring Pittman's own increasingly political and spiritual approach to comedy. "It starts out with therapy and girlfriends and dysfunctional relationships," says Pittman, and then "goes from the personal

"I'm trying to talk about taboos, the other things that we're not allowed to talk about."

into the more topical, the funny things about culture now, and then back to relationships and growing and spirituality, and then in the end, closing on a more spiritual level."

Although most Bay Area theatergoers know Pittman primarily as a stand-up comic,



Lesbian comic Marilyn Pittman credits turning 40 with helping her to not be afraid to speak her mind.

she's worked in radio and television for 17 years, and still works as a radio consultant in between comedy gigs.

Unlike most chair-and-a-mike solo shows, *Thank You for Sharing* uses audio to punctuate each sketch, including radio comedy bits that Pittman has written and produced over the years.

Contributing Laughter

"I see this as a work in progress, something I would like to take nationally and involve more and more media — video, audio, even a console that I could improv sounds with."

With enough frequent flier miles to get her both to Hawaii, the Bahamas, and back, Pittman's seen her share of audiences. Although she prefers mixed audiences — men, women, gay, and straight — she counts a recent gay comedy night in Portland, Oregon, as one of her most intensely rewarding experiences. "They were the best audience you could have on the road — they're gay and they're hungry! No other place in the country has the reflection of us [as gay people] in the arts like we do here. Even New York doesn't have a club like Josie's. In Oregon, with the No on 9 campaign, it's a tremendous release for them to laugh at it after all the grief, loss, and rage they've felt. They're empowered by it. It's an incredibly uplifting feeling ... to give that. That's my way of contributing." ▼

Thank You for Sharing
Josie's, through Oct. 10
861-7933

Worthy

(Continued from previous page)

the tormented Kurt and wife Courtney. Even if you feel that that comparison is full of shit, there's no denying that Cobain invests the song, particularly the line, "I miss the comfort in being sad," with a pain and longing that cut deeper than almost anything he's written.

Amidst all of *In Utero*'s dark tunes, there are a couple of sweet respites. "Tourette's" is warp-speed punk with hooks as honeyed as anything off *Nevermind*. Even better is the loser love song, "Dumb," which has Cobain playing the part of a wasted romantic: "My heart is broke/But I have some glue/Help me inhale/And mend it with you." It may be just a token "pretty song," but it's my favorite on the album.



The Breeders *Last Splash* Elektra

Head Breeder Kim Deal has a voice that's simultaneously soft, raspy, mellifluous and stinging. She can sound weirdly like Rickie Lee Jones at times (don't hold that against her), but mostly her voice is bracing, unique, especially when you compare it with the wispy and one-dimensional girliness of most female-alternative rock vocals of-the-moment.

In her former band, the beloved Pixies, Black Francis handled nearly all of the lead vocals, so it's nice to hear Deal hog the mike here. On *Last Splash*, she's equally comfortable cooing cool rhymes ("I'll be whatever you want/The bong in this reggae song" on "Cannonball") or spitting out epithets ("Coastal cutthroat!" and "You dirty switch!" on "Hag"). The latter track, Deal's witty redemption of the forsaken hag, is typical of the album's subtle feminism.

Musically, this disc is made up of short, sweet blasts of sound, with most songs clocking in at around two minutes. The tunes are catchier, more raucous, and less self-consciously *outré* than those on the Breeders' debut, *Pod*. In short, this is one of the year's best albums, and it — along with the recent Frank Black (aka Black Francis) release — prove that the Pixies didn't disband in vain. ▼

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Symphony

SFS Season Is Off and Running Striking Results

by Philip Campbell

With only this season and the next to secure his memory, Music Director Herbert Blomstedt appears intent on leaving a lasting impression with San Francisco Symphony audiences. Michael Tilson Thomas may bring a fresh perspective, but he will have the outgoing maestro to thank for such capable musicians.

The first weeks of the new concert season have been marked by the same kind of enthusiasm that made Blomstedt's early Beethoven performances in Davies Hall so memorable. The repertoire has been interesting, if generally unadventurous, and several of the pieces were probably scheduled simply because they will be recorded soon.

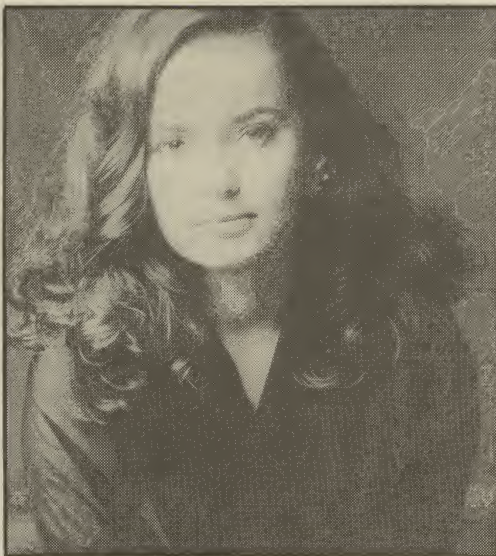
Also, some of the excitement comes from the improved acoustics of the auditorium. Whatever the reasons, the results have been striking, and no one should fear a boring wait until the new conductor arrives.

The bland bill of fare that underwhelmed us on opening night was quickly dismissed from memory by performances of Bela Bartok's obscure symphonic poem *Kossuth* during the first week of

regular subscription concerts. Modern listeners will respond more to the hints of the mature composer who would later write the *Concerto for Orchestra* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*. Louis Kossuth was the soul of a frustrated campaign for Hungarian independence 150 years ago. His heroic life inspired Bartok to emulate Mahler and Richard Strauss, and the score is a fascinating glimpse of the young composer's first influences.

Cast from the same noble mold, Janacek's *Rhapsody for Orchestra*, *Taras Bulba*, logically continued the program and showed again what an original and masterly composer he was. The tangy harmonies which characterize his work sounded particularly effective against the vibrating richness of the hall's Ruffati organ. The orchestra will wisely be recording this breathtaking score, and if the live performances were any indication, there may be another Grammy on the horizon.

The sunny, pastoral charm of much of Dvorak's symphonic output might not seem obvious territory for Herbert Blomstedt's Nordic avoidance of sentimentality, but the *Symphony No. 7* in D minor is an exception. Serious in nature and written with a determined sense of order, the



The orchestra responded with some of the best playing in years.

Soprano Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz demonstrated a "pleasing edge to her voice."

treasurable experience. If we expected a respectable run-through, what we got instead was inspirational. Now, I think Blomstedt should consider a full Dvorak cycle for recording.

Fine Rendition

Last week brought back Brahms' *A German Requiem* after only three years. The reason being a pending recording date. No need to grumble, however, for this was a fine rendition of a work that can sound more than a little musty in the wrong hands. Of course, the dark scoring and massive architect-

ture would be irresistible to Blomstedt, and he clearly responded to Brahms' sober, but essentially gentle view of death and transfiguration.

Vance George's *Symphony Chorus* is facing a particularly busy year, but they are always welcome for their beautiful sound, intense involvement, and dramatic presence. Hissing consonants were an occasional problem in the *Requiem*, but German pronunciation was idiomatic and the finely differentiated blend of voices was downright gorgeous.

The two soloists, both making their debuts with the San Francisco Symphony, were real finds. Soprano Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz has a pleasing edge to her voice that lent an imposing presence to her contributions. Baritone Wolfgang Holzmair is a handsome performer, intensely involved with the score. He will have a future on the opera stages of the world. In the meantime, he will join Ms. Norberg-Schulz in the scheduled recording.

The orchestra sounded fine; hardly their fault if the chorus upstaged them. One surprising aside, however, was a trombonist who kept consulting his watch and yawning. Sorry, if Brahms didn't give him enough to do. The horns sounded perfectly satisfactory, but his actions appeared odd, coming from a member of a team that seems committed to giving their conductor's final seasons an extra edge of excellence. ▼

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Sleeping Beauty

Gay Asian photographer Freddie Niem is showing his work with two other local gay photographers, Greg Day and Rink Foto, in "Striking Images: Three Visionary Photographers, Sharing a Show for the First Time Ever," which runs from Oct. 2 to Oct. 10, 12-5 p.m. at Studio Shanghai West, 119 Collingwood St. Niem is well-known for his book, *Sons of the Moon*, which features erotic photographs of Asian men.

(Photo: Freddie Niem)

Dance

Mercy Sidbury at the Edge Festival

'Personal' Integrity

by Eric Hellman

Last Friday night, at Footwork Studio in the Mission, I think I finally "got it." And no, thank you, I did not suddenly experience a moment of religious conversion, nor am I now a practitioner of some new motivational philosophy for the '90s. Instead, I finally connected with the postmodern push for a more "personal" form of contemporary dance.

This does not mean that I had not previously understood the goal: dancing that is more meaningful; more engaged with social issues; more gut-wrenching and visceral. Sounds good. And after the tedium of dance formalism in the '70s, such objectives are highly laudable, if not essential.

Only Disconnect

But the problem, at least for me, is that under the well-intentioned rubric of the "personal," the late '80s and '90s have produced an avalanche

of cabulary is complex and tightly controlled — I especially love the sequence when she falls, twists on one hand and then arches into a full, reverse back-bend. Unlike many of her junior colleagues, Sidbury has developed a language for moving and she knows how to use it.

Third, Sidbury's sound score mixes recorded text (poetic and abstract) with vocal and instrumental music by Dead Can Dance and Arvo Part. What matters most here is that the text neither dictates meaning nor overwhelms the dance. Similarly, Sidbury's dancing responds to the music's humor, poignancy and tough lyricism.

In sum, the pleasure of *The Invitation* is that Sidbury presents a meaty work of art — one where the whole is considerably greater than the sum of the individual parts. Her sense of the personal is visceral and direct, but she never preaches or harangues; we know that her medium of communication is dance.

★ ★ ★

Besides Sidbury, there were four other performers, or sets of performers, at Footwork on Friday. And all of the other contributors, in this coherent program curated by local teacher and choreographer Joe Goode, revealed a similar search for the "personal." But the results, although varied, were not nearly as focused, or expressive, as Sidbury's piece.

Kathleen Hermesdorf and Scott Wells danced a duet, or a tango, or a wrestling match (there were elements of all three) in an untitled piece set to live music, composed and performed by Mark Growden (tambourine) and Jim Owen (accordion and saxophone). The result, musically-speaking, sounded something like a meandering cabaret dirge. And the dancing proved to be a physically demanding series of body-contact manipulations, notably animated by Wells' gender-bent red dress and bare midriff (for a dancer, he appears to be eating very well, no pun intended). I appreciated the energy, but their dance doesn't seem to have coalesced into a coherent statement, as yet.

Other presentations included four female members of the Knee Jerk Dance Project performing an excerpt from *Heaven (Is Really a Parking Lot)*. Dressed in garage mechanics' overalls and accompanied by Rogue Elephant's heavy-metal score, this group defined the full range of potential for industrial, guerilla-goddess dance. From a different, but no less banal, perspective, Meaghan Gannet delivered a cliché-filled monologue (*Between Heaven and Hell*) on the trials of being a hetero girl in search of sex and love. Her costume, Madonna-meets-Bride-of-Frankenstein, was amusing.

Hodgepodge

Friday's Edge Festival program closed with a wrap-up piece called *Coda*, conceived

and performed by Paul Benney and Jessica Lutes. This dynamic duo was previously seen in *Arena* at last summer's Summertime Dance Project at Theatre Artaud (and in a revised, repeat version of the same piece earlier this year).

The Benney-Lutes' contribution began with a witty parody of each of the four preceding acts. This was followed by a short demonstration of their now trademark style: outrageously physical partnering, syncopated floor-splats, and lots of heavy breathing. But similar to most of the other participants, there weren't really any ideas that mattered. Unless, of course, you count modernist Kung-Fu aerobics as an end in itself. ▼

Editor's Note: The Edge Festival: Up Close and Personal continues at Footwork Studio, 3221 22nd Street (at Mission St.), San Francisco, on October 1-2 (Mary Forcade, Djola Bernard Branner) and October 8-9 (Jon Weaver, Polly Motley). Call 824-5044 for tickets and more information.



Sensational Sidbury: Mercy Sidbury's (above) *The Invitation* was a highlight of the Edge Festival program last weekend at Footwork Studio. (Photo: Judy Allen)

Similarly, Sidbury's dancing responds to the music's humor, poignancy and tough lyricism.

of work that's obsessively confessional, but which rarely connects with any larger, more artful statement of purpose. The search for the "physical" has also become a cover for the absence of any complicated (or varied technique). And the dance scene's engagement with social issues (encouraged by multimedia, text-driven productions) has often meant that dance, i.e., movement, has receded as the primary means of expression.

But, last Friday my history of disappointment was turned upside down. My new enthusiasm for the "personal" was made tangible by the extraordinary power, the simplicity and integrity of a new solo work, danced (and choreographed) by local veteran Mercy Sidbury. Called *The Invitation*, the piece is, according to program notes, the second part of a larger solo work, scheduled for presentation in June of 1994 at Footwork.

Taut Display

There are several things that make Sidbury's work (and her dancing) seem especially compelling. First, *Invitation* is personal (both in the accompanying, recorded text and in the way Sidbury moves — everything is so intentional). But the dance never lapses into private confession or political tirade. Second, Sidbury's movement vo-

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To Your Health

Is Bodybuilding Waning?

by Dianne Aaronson

Participation in gay and lesbian bodybuilding competition is declining, but gyms are still packed. What's going on?

On Sunday, September 26, Arcadia Bodybuilding Society (ABS) held their general membership meeting. Though the main purpose for this annually scheduled September meeting has been to elect the board of directors for the upcoming year, it is also a time to receive feedback and field questions from the membership. However, this year's major agenda item was to discuss the waning interest of the members (evidenced by a severe drop in numbers) and the possible dissolution of the eight year old nonprofit organization.

Board members and the current ABS president, Jeff Kelly, prefer a shift in focus rather than total dissolution, but without membership help and volunteers, even that may be unrealistic. ABS is now ac-

tively seeking more volunteers. If there is evidence of enough member support, ABS could focus more on their community health education seminars, putting the annual physique show on the back burner for a while.

Decline of Physique

Kelly believes there has been a general decline in bodybuilding interest over the last few years within the gay community. In the past, the number of competitors who turned out to participate in the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Physique Show each year was approximately sixty. The last couple of years have shown a marked decline. This year there was only a fraction of the usual numbers, and just one female competitor.

Other cities have suffered the same decline. The Seattle July Fourth weekend show had only a few competitors (and only one female); the Dallas show was canceled due to lack of participation. Closer



Women's lightweight class contestants pose down at Physique '92. Beverly Schaffer, far right, placed first.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

to home, the Guerneville summer physique contest also had a poor turnout. The big question is whether interest in bodybuilding is waning, or is it merely in some sort of transition?

The gyms continue to be full, but not many of these people end up on stage.

The reasons for this could be many. A while back it was suggested to me, with regard

to the lack of female participation, that it might be a sign of the economic times. Women do earn salaries which reflect their "second class citizenship" status and would be the first to have to give up the luxury of competition. It may be that the recession is also now affecting the (in general) higher paid, better employed male population and these same individuals who might otherwise be spending money on trainers, supplements, tanning and high quality food are more focused on such necessities as rent and utilities.

Costs Are Up

Rodney Felix, last year's ABS President, estimates that it cost him an extra \$3,000 per year during the years that he entered physique contests, and further suggests that since he also received many items for free, that a more realistic estimate might be \$5,000 per year.

Bob Paris Effect

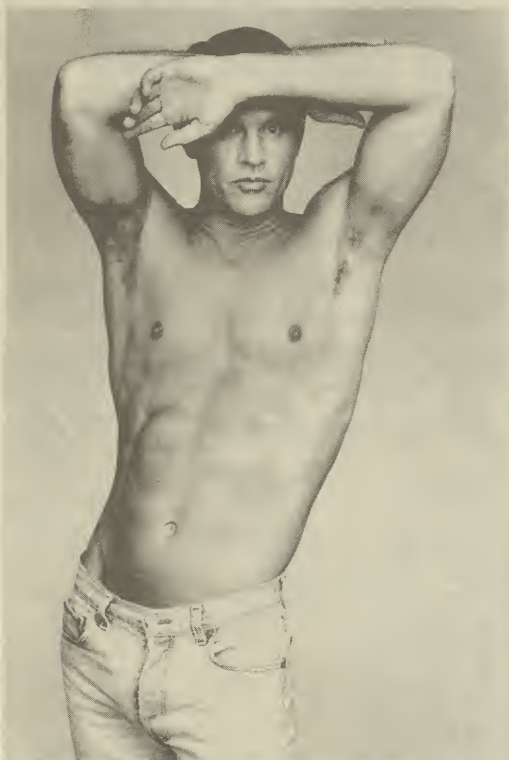
Felix believes that economics surely has a role in

**Now, many
gays feel
more
confident
competing in
mainstream
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and no longer
feel the need
to restrict
themselves to
gay-only
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the recent decline in participation, but suggests that Bob Paris, the gay bodybuilding god, may have indirectly had an impact on the recent state of affairs. When well-known national bodybuilder Paris came out as gay, he made the whole "straight" bodybuilding scene a lot more accessible for the gay male bodybuilder.

(Continued on page 48)

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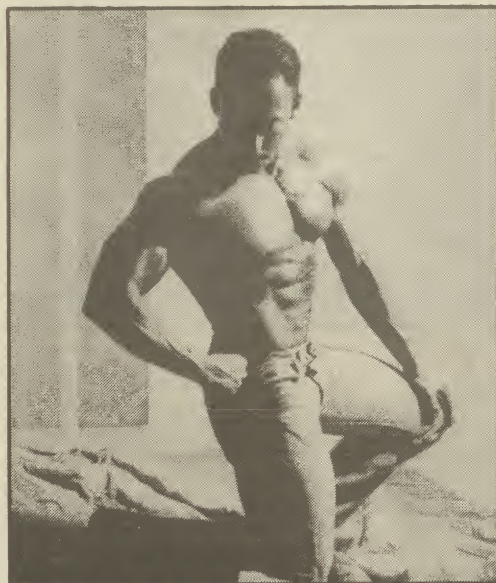
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Seattle's Tom Doyle flexes for the camera.

Female Flag Football Fever

by Erin Blackwell

As the Sunday morning 8 a.m. Polo Field fog lifts, two women conscientiously smooth out divots and gopher holes with a shovel. Divots and gopher holes on a football field can be traumatic; they are the small irregularities that can turn a flag football player's ankle. They can cause injuries that'll shorten a flag football player's season unnecessarily.

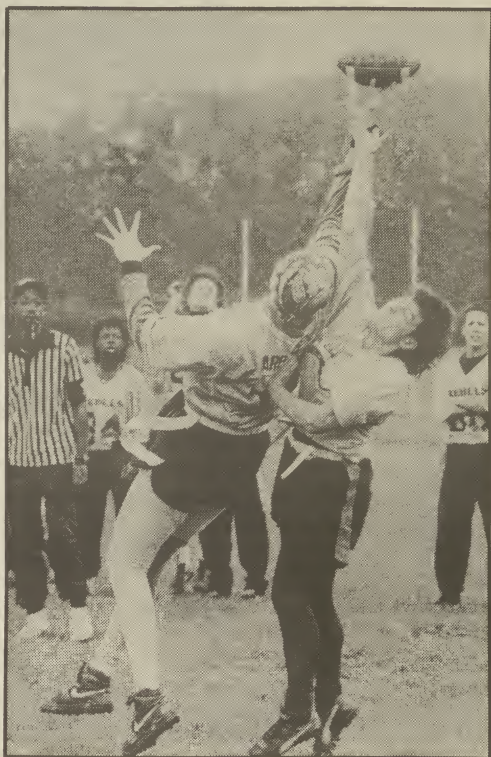
The two divot-smoothing women are the San Francisco Women's Flag Football League (SFWFFL) Commissioner, Maureen Hogan, and her teammate Lisa Robson. They don't mind rising early on a Sunday morning if it is for football. They prepare the field with white spray painted lines and orange down line traffic cones before the first of three women's flag football games starts at 9:30 a.m.

"The SFWFFL was started about eight years ago by a bunch of women lawyers talking at work, and wanting to get a game together," says Hogan, a football loving ex-javelin thrower said to have a great arm. The predominantly lesbian league has grown to currently include about 100 women. The seven-team league now plays two seasons a year, fall and spring. Six of the seven teams play each Sunday in three games lasting an hour and a half each. Teams currently pay \$300 a season to join the league, which doesn't include their stunning custom uniform shirts, which, along with the plastic yellow and red flags, are the only way of telling the teams apart.

A Friendly Game

"Flag football's a friendly game," says Venus, 30, a wide receiver for We Came To Play. Rules keep contact to a minimum to avoid injuries, and referee Sean Harrington and his two assistants are there to enforce the rules. At 6'4" and 290 pounds, Harrington is the closest thing on the field to a Green Bay Packer.

The day's first game pits the league's newest team, the Weekend Warriors, against the number one team, We Came To Play. By the time the dirt clouds settle at 11 a.m., lost — the Weekend Warriors have lost — their second loss, but their newly elected captain, Lindsey Shams, is radiant. "Last week we got beat 32 to nothing," she explains. "This week we got beat 16 to six. That's a victory in itself." Never mind they had to borrow two players from the opposing team to lose so graciously. After a 16 year hiatus



Two women flag footballers stretching for the ball.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

from sports, the critical care nurse at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland is delighted to have discovered flag football this past August. Now all she needs are some linebackers and a kicker.

This is in Indiana this weekend for a softball tournament. Although they don't make

(Continued on next page)

Football Babes on Bikes

Meanwhile, some women make noisier entrances onto the playing field than others. Andra and April of the Avengers team ride in on their Yamaha motorcycles. Andra sports a total of 12 piercings, ten of them visible when she's in uniform. While many athletes wouldn't want to play any sport wearing jewelry, she leaves her piercings in when she plays, thus deriving more pain/pleasure from the occasional head-on or breast-on collision. "Football's the funnest," she says. "There's more going on, more energy, more contact." She also eagerly confesses she's out "looking for girls."

Despite an intense team spirit to match their shocking-pink-on-mauve shirts, the Avengers lose to the Sistahs, 21-13.

I'd Rather Not Be a Couch Potato

The third and final game is between the Girl Friends and Fear This, a team remarkable for its high percentage of policewomen. Fear This has the league's funniest T-shirts, which read "Fear This, but, please don't hurt me." Wide receiver Cindy Sanchez used to play in San Jose, but three weeks ago she joined Fear This. Although she is a Raiders fan, she feels, "I'd rather be participating, than be a couch potato — watching it."

Unfortunately, half of Fear

Tavern Guild Bowling League Season Opens

From Ms. Pro Bowler to Which Fingers Go Where?

by Sam Kipu

In the predominantly gay Tavern Guild bowling league, talents range from "Ms. Pro Bowler" to "Which fingers do I put in the holes?" and personalities range from "Ms. Thang" to "Mr. Universe."

Guys and gals, shed those spikes! It's time to don bowling shoes. The Tavern Guild Bowling League is starting winter play. The main focus of the leagues is to meet people and have fun! As Tim, a devoted league bowler once said, "Try us, you'll like it! We are like sex — once you try it, you just can't get enough and want to come back for more."

The season starts the second week of September and winds down around March.

The Tavern Guild bowling league meets at Park Bowl which is on Haight street near Stanyan, with ample parking besides the lanes. The Major-domo of the Tavern Guild Leagues is Mal Garcia who can be reached at (415) 752-2366. If he is not there you may speak to any one of his associates (Donn, Kay, or Jerry). You can join as a team or individual. Joining as an individual has benefits, for example you can

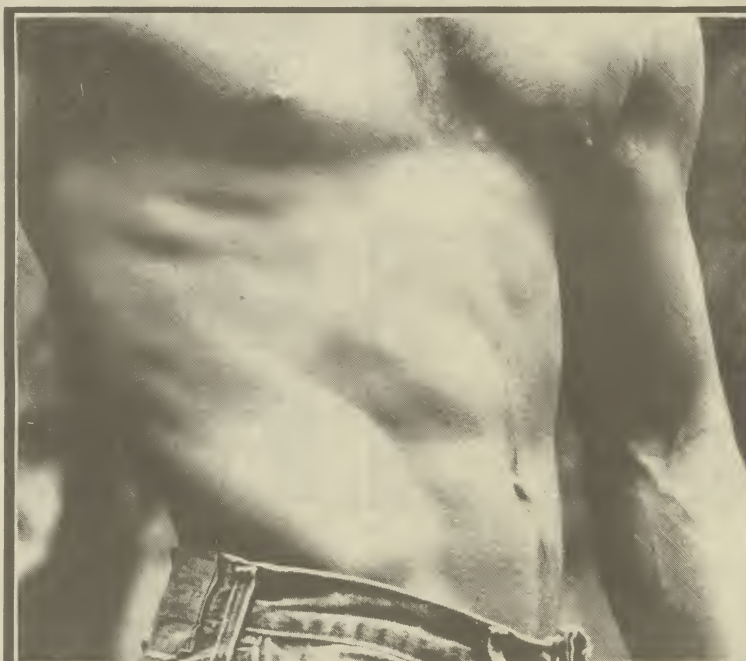


Park Bowl, home of Tavern Guild play. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

squeeze your way onto Mr. Universe's team.

The cost for each Tavern Guild League is a mere \$10.50 per night, which is pretty good considering that part of the fees goes to S.F.B.E.A.R. (San Francisco Bowler's Emergency AIDS Relief Fund). This is a fund which provides financial assistance to members of the Bowling Community with AIDS or other illnesses.

So give bowling a try! I'll be looking for you on the lanes.



Week 3 Standings

WCTP	3 - 0
Girlfriends	2 - 1
Rebels	1 - 1
Fear This	1 - 2
Sistahs	1 - 2
Avengers	0 - 2
Weekend Warriors	0 - 2

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9-Ball Fever Grips the League

The qualifying rounds for the SF Pool Association's 13th Annual 9-Ball Championship are under way, and a number of players are learning the nuances of the national tournament game of choice.

The 16 finalists are determined at a series of eight qualifiers played at various league-sponsored taverns. The first two to claim the coveted finalist status were Chris DeCoing and John Hou. "There's less pressure when you're playing just for yourself," said Hou. "I play better when I don't have to worry about what my teammates are thinking."

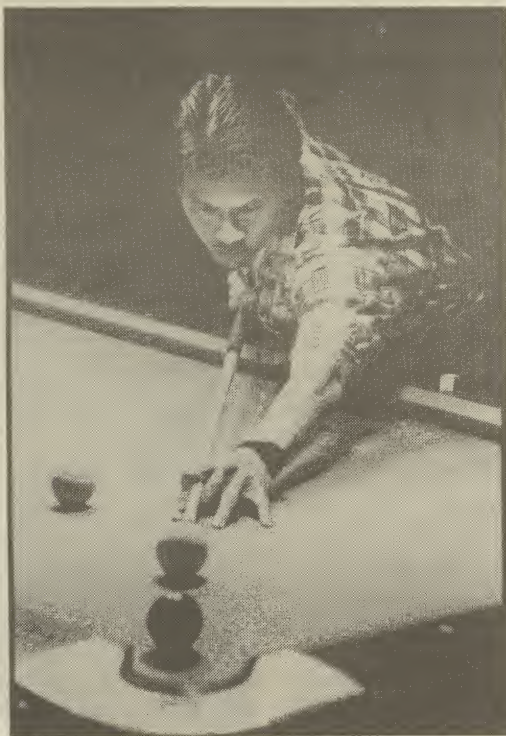


The Bear and Badlands played host at qualifier No. 2, where well-known cohorts, Rick Bradford and Dennis

Healy, bested their respective draws. Rick sailed through his matches without losing a single game; he is one of a number of league players who are taking their game to the next level through competing in USPPA handicapping system 9-ball contests in local pool halls.

Mark Miller is another player taking advantage of USPPA opportunities, and he was joined by Keith Winston as finalists after qualifier No. 3 at the Border. The Transfer hosted qualifier No. 4, where Kevin Hewitt and Wally Sutherland reigned supreme. Wally won the first annual championship back in 1981 and finished second last year to Bernard Bayaca.

Wally and Bernard teamed up to win seven games from the league's hottest team, Rick Mariani Photography Snapshots, breaking their string of five consecutive 14-2 outings. The Snapshots still lead their division by 24 games but are just six games better than Division IV leader, Transfer Ballbusters. Wally Sutherland leads all individuals with his 21-1 start. Interdivisional play starts this week with six consecutive matches pairing equally ranked teams. Look for those lofty personal averages to take a tumble. Dial JOE-POOL for SFFA information.



Ching Ng playing in a pool tournament.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Football

(Continued from page 47)

their best showing ever, Fear This team members yell encouragement to teammates from the sidelines.

The Girl Friends wear the coolest T-shirts; basic black with white numbers, nicely complemented by yellow plastic football flags hanging from either hip.

Next Stop, Barbecue

By 2 p.m., when it's all over but the barbecue, the Girl Friends have outplayed the depleted Fear This, 13-0. With no visible hard feelings, the women give each other

high fives as they leave the field. Everyone seems to have had a nice time on Polo Field number five this post-fog sunny Sunday. Football wives have read the Sunday papers. Dogs have chased frisbees and each other. Players have had the opportunity to chase women in the name of good, clean fun. Even this formerly football-shy reporter feels she must agree with WCTP's Mar Stevens, who said, "It's nice to be around athletic women." This reporter's investigative eyes could not resist the sights of such well-developed calf and thigh muscles. Or the sights of those well-honed female bodies catching flying footballs with such precision, midair. ▼

Health

(Continued from page 46)

Gay physique shows used to be a novelty, and a lot of gay men only competed in this type of competition. Now, many gays feel more confident competing in mainstream competitions and no longer feel the need to restrict themselves to gay-only shows.

The Steroid Factor

Kelly has another theory. Though he agrees that economics is a factor, he also sees a correlation between the declining number of participants and the implementation of steroid testing. "The show in 1991 was the first to be tested and we have seen a steady decline since then. It's possible that the people who do steroids have just moved on to the mainstream, untested shows."

In my own circle, I have noticed that many people (including myself) have moved toward a more balanced approach to bodybuilding. Though many still enjoy the actual workouts, there is less focus on competition and the training and dieting necessary for that end of the sport, and more on cross training.

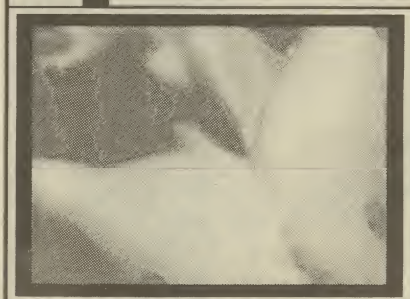
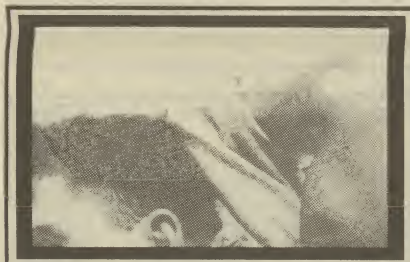
Many people who originally became interested in bodybuilding to enhance their strength, overall health and self-esteem, are now using those healthier, more athletically sophisticated bodies to explore other physical endeavors ranging from rock climbing to mountain biking or backpacking. It is also probably safe to say that these same individuals who entered the sport for health reasons are not very likely to be steroid users. I know many natural athletes who have become fed up with the bodybuilding scene because of the prevalence of drugs.

Unfortunately, if one intends to continue on the competition track, they will eventually have to compete against steroid users. The reason for this is that the sport of bodybuilding is based on a tiered system. There are local, state, national and international competitions. The higher up (level of difficulty/quality of competition) one goes, the more likely it is that the competitors are on drugs, since most of the larger, more popular shows are not tested. However, one cannot continue to compete in the same gay (tested) shows each year. If the next level up promises to support bodybuilders using steroids, the motivation to continue to compete can understandably wane.

Gay Games as Measure

It is not surprising to me then, that many people who happen to love working out hesitate to continue to pour blood, sweat and tears into this type of competition. Gay Games IV in New York will be an interesting meter for the shift in demographics. Though I would expect a stronger turnout for the Games in general from the East Coast and Europe this time around because of the location, I also expect that it will give hints of the latest trends. Perhaps gay Californians, who have probably been in the sport the longest, are moving into other areas. It will be interesting to see who takes up the slack. As registration forms have not yet been sent out, we really won't know for a few months yet. However, the physique show is always such a popular event, I expect that there will still be a heavy participant turnout. What parts of the world they will represent is still to be seen. ▼

More sports
page 57



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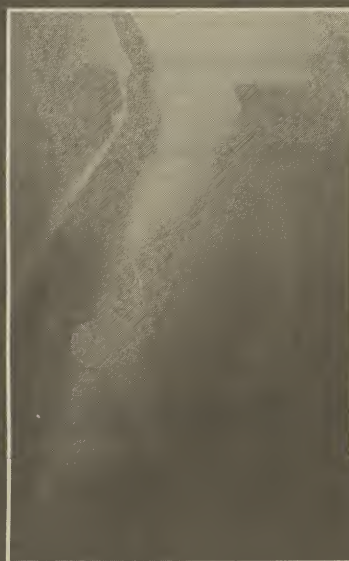
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Remember romance? 32yo GWM w/ loving heart is looking! Professional, HIVneg seeking similar in Concord area. EXT1193.

Goodlooking GAM, 29, 5'10", 170, nice musc body seeks same for fun and friendship. N/S, N/D, HIVneg. EXT 1194.

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Seeking LTR with Black, Filipino bottom to 50's. Short, smooth pref by WM, 50, 6', 200, blue collar, writer, smoker. EXT 1195.

GWM, 42, 5'10", Br/Bl, intel, very gd/kg, secure, art, HIVpos l/kg for int M for frndshp, crts/p, poss LTR, Guerneville. EXT 1196.

Even busy prof's need love! GWM, 51, 5'10", 155, blonde, clin shvn. Not daddy type but prefers yngr men. Enjoys dancing, mtbiking, backpacking, seakayaking, music, dinners, adventures, loving modesty, cuddling. Desires loving, monogamous relationship. EXT 1197.

Exceptionally good natured incredible looks, blonde, 8', semi-smooth, early 30's, 5'10", HIVpos, normal t-4 needs lover. EXT 1198.

Walnut Creek. Handsome GWM, 6', 150, 46, Br/Bl, HIVneg, trim seeks same, 25-40, for rltshp. EXT 1199.

Handsome GWM, 30's, 6', 195, Br/Gr, HIVneg seeks LTR w/ same. Masc, mature, hairy, loving, hung, gd shape, and together. EXT 1200.

East Bay Blond, 29' waist, smooth, solid, tan, HIVneg, 37 seeks muscular, big chested man for fun, Relationship oriented. EXT 1201.

GWM, 38, husky, hairy, balding w/ mustache seeks guy, 20-30 w/ attractive, boyish looks for possible relationship. I like nature, films and bicycling. EXT 1203.

The most exciting man in the world is you...caring, intelligent, affectionate, good humored, broad interests, 30 plus. I'm GWM, 5'9", 158, blond, 40's, HIVpos, smoker. EXT 1204.

Hairy and husky 46yo, very passionate top looking for a bottom who really enjoys sweaty, raunchy love making. Possible LTR. HIVneg. EXT 1232

Very Attractive Asian, 27, lean musc, romantic, sensitive and faithful sks GWM of same qualities for poss LTR EXT 1245.

GWM 36, slim and in shape l/kg for Asian friend/lover, 20's-30, I'm very shy at times and outgoing tt other times. Sport oriented. l/kg for sensitive other for my one and only. EXT 1246.

Unconditional love sought by GAM, 21, 5'7", 130 for LTR. Looking for GW/MAM, under 30. Sincere, not into bars. EXT 1247.

Hndsm, masc, Stanford student, 26, 160, excit body, rich sks very cute guy for dating/trvl. EXT 1248.

A recipe for a real Man and a real man. Poss Ltr. Mix together a little romance, humor, serious lovable, caring, concerned, sincere first with sex, togetherness. Hot time's and exploring eachother. EXT 1249.

GIM bttm, 5'7", 157, 28, HIVpos, hltly, skng masc top GW/LAM for frndshp, Poss LTR. Nd not be bl or gym toned, but not fat. 5'7" plus pls. Nd not be extremely hndsm, but easy on the eyes. Prof pref, not picky, 25-45, int in mod rock/Live 105 scene. No queens or superficial, shallow types pls. EXT 1252.

GWM, 44, tall, masc sks guy into kink, S/M and fantasies. Poss a LTR. You: under 35 and in shape. Let's live the dream! EXT 1253.

Hot, 6', 34, 155, gd/kg, w/ great A plus body, hung big seeks gd/kg top hung even bigger. EXT 1254.

GLM, 32, 5'11", 175, excellent shape, smooth chest, HIVneg, sks masculine, well-built HIVneg men, 26-36, for bike riding, hiking, dating, Poss relationship. EXT 1255.

GLM, mature, slender, vers, 44, hltly, HIVpos, grad student. Enjoys honesty, romance, intimacy, MCC, sobriety, N/S, movies, C/W and sex, sex, sex. Seek sim, honest, GWM/over 21 who is N/S, sober and enjoys massages, sex and oral com. EXT 1256.

Prof GWM sks frndshp in Bay area. I love outdoors and look/feel of nylon/ Lycra tights erosenality. EXT 1250.

GWM, 38, hry, hsky, balding, mustache seeks guy 20-30 w/ attr boyish looks for possible rltshp. I have a bear mag look. EXT 1257.

38yo GWM, HIVpos seeks LTR with top HIVpos GWM, 35-45, professional with mustache, hairy. Me: 6'2", 165, blonde. EXT 1259.

GWM, Spanish/greek, 47, healthy HIVpos, 5'9", 150, br hair, mustache, hry bod, well hung, vers, enjoys wrking out, the beach, sun, trvl, spending time in my country house. Looking for NS, hry, mustache (no beard), attr, in good shp, well hung and vers, over 30, hltly HIVpos. No fats or fems. EXT 1266.

I love: Aspirins, canceled travels, two glasses of champ at 3, wild elegant parties, platinum Visa, french! EXT 1294.

Hivpos top wanted. Capricorn, Virgo or Scorpio needs dark hair, mustache, 1962, blue seeks soulmate. EXT 1295.

Study looking hairy W BB, 6', 200 seeks big Blk man to play my smooth bubble butt and fall in love. EXT 1296.

Athletic 48 wants partner, 20-s early 30's, clean shaven, smooth who likes lite spanking and loving. EXT 1297.

DLX GWM, 50, wants complete, honest, handsome, passionate partner, 40-55, HIVneg, healthy, high self-esteem, no smokers/ drugs. EXT 1298.

Asian? Masc? Gd/kg? Sensitive? Special, gd/kg GWM, 40 wants to hear from you. Bars not my scene. Let's talk. EXT 1300.

Magical, adventuresome, rom, gd/kg, vers GWM, HIVpos, 5'9", 155, Br/Hzl, sks same for movies, plays, sex and exploring new horizons. Up to it? Call EXT 1301.

I'm looking for a hltly M w/ a bright shiny smile, plenty of future and a heart full of love. I'm an average l/kg 30, 6', B/Bl sens-touch. I'm too much of some things, not enough of other things and a little of everything. inst, but diff love. I'm capable of comm and l/kg for it. Tall, slim WM w/ long hr a real plus. EXT 1303.

Handsome GWM, 50, masc, sensuous, retired, theater, music, travel, HIVneg responsible, smooth a plus for poss LTR. EXT 1304.

38, GWM, hairy, husky, balding, mustache seeks guy 20-30 with attractive boyish looks for possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, films and humor. EXT 1305.

Attention Hairy blondes and red-headed M: 37, toe head, 29 waist, 140, HIVneg into dating, oral play. EXT 1307.

Handsome GAM, 34, 5'9", 160 prof, affectionate, warm-hearted, educated, athletic, HIVneg, San Jose, seeks lover, 40-55, 170, 200, pls. EXT 1308.

Lingering kissed, prolonged nipple play mutual oral delights, affection. Come play w/ intell, fun, caring Nordic Blond, 5'9", 158, 40's, HIVpos, smoker. Rel poss. EXT 1309.

Asian, 28, relationship oriented, romantic, discreet looking for LTR. You are a top ont masculine male. Straight or Bi a plus. EXT 1310.

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Strict disciplinarian over 60 needed for bad boy, 57. Whipping and loving. Please Sir. EXT 1207.

Vers Bi Male, 42, seeks similar. Me: 42, 6'2", 200, Black. You are similar weight over 40 a plus. EXT 1208.

49yo GWM, 6', 150, Drk Brn/ Brn, 9' cock seeks young White men under 40 who want to get fucked. EXT 1209.

Very attractive GWM, voyeur, 6', 200, Br/Br seeks hot men who like to show it off while I watch. EXT 1210.

GWM, European, 30yo, 5'8", 150, I'm looking for GAM or GWM between 25-35. No beard, no mustache. EXT 1211.

Are you an uncult top? WM, 35, fit, skinny, foreskin, crazy. You: Muscular, masculine, 30-45, Latino a plus. EXT 1212.

Dad, bttm seeks dad top 45plus, trim, 57, 6', 170, beard, rings, tats,HIVneg, nds no limit kink buddy. EXT 1213.

FF, maso, fit, 57,tatts, rings seeks control powr totl top. Bondage and do it yr way. No limits. Make it blubber. EXT 1214.

Wanted: GWM into athletic shoes. Looking for men who wear Nike Air High Tops or Reebok Pumps, basketball shoes. All hell will break loose. Call ASAP. EXT 1215.

Hung Latin daddy, 55, 5'11", 185, seeks sub or hungry c/s. So Bay resident. No drugs. Tit play, Ass spank. EXT 1216.

I want to stick my dick inside your shorts. Slap your boner against mine. Shoot your load right on my dong. Watch me pump my cream onto your swollen dickhead. I'm 40, 5'9", 145, Bald, furry, clean shaven, goodlooking. Looking for cute guys with stiff dicks. EXT 1217.

Long hair pretty boy bottom seeks extra hung 9'plus top to fuck my hot hole. Like being watched and shared. EXT 1218.

Slave seeks master novice, 34 wants to serve dominant man, Use my mouth. EXT 1220.

GWM, 32yo, looking for clin shvn GWM or Latin, German, Italian, Age 25-34. Me: HIVpos. You a plus too. EXT1221.

Mexican, 5'4", 135, 36, bottom looking for GWM tops for fun. EXT 1222.

Hot Italian cumfreak and ass eater seeks heavy, multiloaded horny men for regular sessions. Call for description. Avail days and eves. EXT 1223.

ltn ex-football jock seeks expert oral serve on a reg basis. Castro location. All replies considered. EXT 1224.

Aggressive, dominant WM, hung big, 5'11", gym bod rds in shape WM, hry bubble butt to eat and fuck. EXT 1225.

GWM, Attractive, HIVneg, mid 40's will give hot heap as you like it to men 35-60 that are dominant and serious. E. Bay preferred. Will answer all. EXT 1226.

Exceptional guy: intelligent, educated, sexy, goodlooking, creative. Looking for financially secure or professional males. EXT 1229.

East Bay bottom with great ass for your pleasure. Me: 5'3", gym toned, muscular legs, smooth ass. You: Masculine, hung and horny. You love to fuck smaller guys. EXT 1231.

Oakland GWM seeks hung men for mutual J/O, dirty talk, cock worship. Drink/party. My place in Oakland, 10-11pm dates. Long scenes encouraged. EXT 1233.

Gay artist: Educated, sexy, intelligent, goodlooking, creative, seeking other Gay artists or other gay guys for fun and good times. EXT 1228.

Attractive WM, fit, 6', 170, w/ 50 C and B rings seeks firm hand for 50 more. Am equipped. Single sessions okay. Groups welcome. EXT 1234.

Blk's or Latino's who want head. Masc GWM, Mid 40's looking to give service. Open to other things. EXT 1235.

Asian Bottom, 5'3", stocky, 30yo seeks Asian or Latino tops for safe sex. EXT 1236.

My afternoons are free. I'm looking for a suit and tie type to drop his pants and let me service his uncult dick, balls and crotch. Me: GWM, 5'8", 145, 35, Br/Br. EXT 1237.

Hung guys wanted by me for fun and good times. I'm looking for guys who are hung 9 inches or more. Ten inches or more is a plus. EXT 1227.

Heaviest sperm owner will receive heaviest reward. EXT 1239.

Always horny after work, late nights, early mornings. Cocksucker needs aggressive top. Tall dark features a plus. Tell me what you want. EXT 1238.

Bodybuilder/photographer seeks slim, petite black male with huge, thick cock for 69 pleasure! Oakland? EXT 1260.

WM needs training, verbal/phsys to understand a mans way to serve a hairy WM's manhood. EXT 1261.

Blk dad seeks son. Me: 51, 6'4", 225. You: GWM, 28-39, sincere, honest. Mutual interests: snoski, scuba a plus. EXT 1262.

E bay bottom BM masc, gd/kg, 40's talk, discreet, HIVneg sks A/L/AM for vers safe sex. EXT 1263.

37 GWM, 5'9", trim, bottom seeks 30-30 GWA/L trim top, Long, intense fucking sessions. EXT 1264.

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Hot Latino in e daep turtleneck wanted. Kick back and let this beefy, tell, 30yo cocksucker servica you. EXT 1273.

Hot mouth, dp throat available for use by masc, eggsv man, 25-50, hry a plus (not required), gdlng GWM, 34, 5'10", 160, drk bl/bl, oral a/xpart. Also into submission scns and o/rs. EXT 1281.

Humor, imagination, intelligenza wrapped up in a masc, hndsm, package. Warm, sexy, HIVneg man wants masc, sensual, HIVneg, egrassiva top. EXT 1290.

WM, 52 into dominanca and submission
needs masculine top about same age. EXT
1316.

Gothic M-F TS seeks hot , hung punk guys 18-30 for hanging out and ? Must be masculine end selfsufficient. EXT 1242.

Muff diver exclusively oral sks BiF any age, race. Enjoy multi-orgasms, no recipis, WM, fit, 57, 6', beard. No STD, hot mouth goes down for hours. EXT 1348.

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WM, 32, Br/Bl, 5'10", gdlkng, gym body, hung, vers seaks gdlkng WM, 25-39, in shape, for hot safe sex. EXT 1342.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 1

Annie Sprinkle

Post-Porn modernist's busty bodacious performance. \$16-18. 8pm. Thru 10/3. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

Berkeley Opera Company

A gala benefit for the opening of the 15th season. \$20. 8pm. First Congregational Church, Dana & Durant streets. Berkeley. (510) 524-5256.

Box 27

Drama about a sergeant involved with the gay son of a Marine colonel, and the poker game in which the truth comes out. \$12. 8pm. Thru 10/2. Los Gatos Cinema Stage, 41 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos. (408) 399-5577.

Brides of Bernarda

8:30pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St.



Jungle Red (SAT.)

Dress/Code

Visual art exhibition of varied media works examining gender and identity, including works by D-L Alvarez, Cecilia Dougherty, Sue Marcoux, Arthur Tress, Florence Yoo & others. Thurs-Sat. Thru 10/23. Free. SF Arts Commission Gallery, 155 Grove St. 554-9682.

Dykes on Bikes

Retrospective photo exhibit of lesbian motorcyclists through the years, framed in bike parts. Thru 10/24. Eichelbergers, 2742 17th at Florida. 863-4177.

An Evening of Ballet

American Ballet Theatre principals Susan Jaffe & Jeremy Collins do the balcony scene from a new production of Romeo & Juliet, choreographed by Johan Renvall, and other things. Presented by San Francisco Dance Theatre. \$15, \$20 reserved seating. 8pm thru 10/3. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Edmond

David Mamet's one act play in 23 scenes about urban depravity. \$10. 8pm. Thru 10/3. New Shelton Theatre, 533 Sutter. 564-7153.

Earshot

Interdisciplinary art series with sound works by Ed Osborn, Laetitia Sonami, and performance by Cactus Needle Project. Thru 10/2. The LAB Gallery, 1807 Divisadero. 346-4063.

The Tactile Dome

A pitch black geodesic dome visitors can only maneuver through by using their sense of touch. Half-price (\$4) thru 11/19. Tues-Fri. 3:30-5, 6:45pm. Special Wed. shows at 8:30pm. 3601 Lyon St. 563-7337.

He Plays, She Sings

An original, old-fashioned backstage musical featuring songs of Jerome Kern. Tonight's performance will benefit the New Conservatory HIV Educational Touring Division for youth. \$15. The New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Horror-trature

Photos taken at Castro Halloween since 1985 by Lind Johnson. Thru 10/31. Tart to Tart, 641 Irving at 8th Ave. 665-3530

Invisible Life: A View into the World of a 120 Year Old Man
Fred Wilson's installation & recreation of the home of a fictional closeted man. \$4. Thru 10/3. Haas-Lillienthal House, 2007 Franklin St.

Man's Best Friend

Play about manipulative Hollywood relationships. 8pm. Thru 10/16. Above Brainwash Theatre, 1126 Folsom at 7th. 986-4919.

Rhinoceros

Ionesco's classic tale of a world where everyone in town becomes a rhino, except the protagonist. Presented by the Open Egg Theatre, new to San Francisco. \$8 previews, \$10-12 for regular performances. Thru 10/31. 450 Geary. 673-1172.

SF Conservatory of Music

Baritone Bruce Rameker performs an American Song Recital. Kristin Pankonin on the piano. \$5 donation suggested. 8pm. Hellman Hall, SFCM, 19th Ave. & Ortega St. 564-8086.

Spur

Ed Osborn's audio installation about the constraints of techno- & socio-systems. Thru 10/2. The LAB, 1807 Divisadero. 346-4063.

Twelfth Night

Shakespeare's cross-dressing comedy of errors, re-costumed and staged in 19th century Louisiana, rollicks through the park, complete with pirates, ships and bluegrass music. Free. 1:30pm. Thru 10/3. Golden Gate Park's Liberty Tree Meadow. 666-2318.

Why We Have a Body

Comedy about gender roles, including a dyke detective and a woman who thinks she's Joan of Arc when she's not robbing 7-Eleven stores. \$12-21. 8:30pm, Sun. 2pm & 7:30pm. Re-extended thru Oct. Magic's Southside Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

You Could Be Home Now

Ann Magnuson, New York performance scene hero, TV and film fave, performs a one-woman show about her home town of Charleston, West Virginia. \$17.50. 8pm. Thru 10/3. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. (510) 762-BASS.

SATURDAY 2

Cages

Robin Karfo's musical drama with film and video, about a trapped couple of musicians, a hot tub abortion, and a visit by a guardian angel. \$5-10. 8pm. Thru 10/17. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Jewish Lesbian Comedy Night

With Lisa Geduldig and Suzy Berger. \$8. 9pm. The Tea Spot Cafe, 2072 San Pablo at University, Berkeley. (510) 848-7376.

Jungle Red

Ultra-camp musical version of the film *The Women* is back, with more songs and a new cast, including Miss X, Donna Sachet, Miss Ann Drogynous & Mark Sargent. \$13-15. 8pm. Sun. at 4pm. Artfull Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-KILL.

Love, Sex and the I.R.S.

Farical play about a gay couple who try to file their taxes as a married couple. \$7-12. 8pm. Sun. at 2:30. Burgess Theater, 601 Laurel St., Menlo Park. 322-3261.

Pacific Guild Crystal Fair.

The 7th annual, in fact. More than 40 booths of vendors. Thru 10/3. \$4. 10am-6pm today; 10-4 tomorrow.

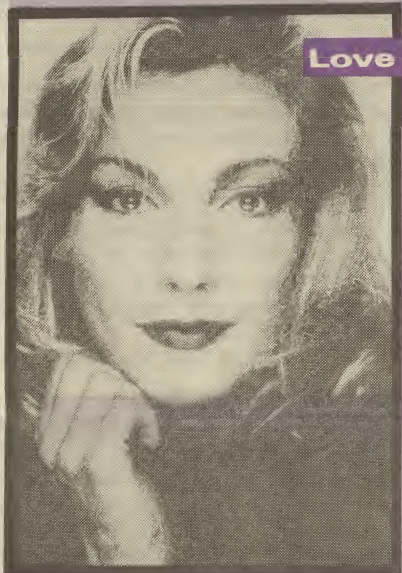
La Pena Cultural Center

The Paco de Lucia with Maestro de Flamenco Dance, Manuel Soler. At the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400.



Very Suite

A.T.A. Gallery's Other Cinema concludes its three-week 'Suite Sisters' Picture with a broadside of discursive pieces on reproductive issues. Spokeswomen from the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights update Dana Dickey's resting *Access Denied* with recent reports from the San Jose clinic defense. Martha Rosler's *The Strange Case of Baby S/M*, Jane Cottis' *Felt Evidence* and Eli Robertson/T. Norton's *Light to Rife* comprise the balance of the program. 8:30 p.m. \$5. Call 824-3890 for information. 992 Valencia St.



Love that Lemper

Internationally celebrated German chanteuse Ute Lemper comes to San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall, Sunday, October 3 at 8 p.m. Accompanied by Bruno Fontana, Lemper will present an evening of songs by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Tickets range from \$11-\$55 and are available through the SFS Box Office at 431-5400.



Real Bad.

Grass Roots Gay Rights West presents *Real Bad V*, Sunday, October 3 at the Castro St. Fair. 174 King St. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. behind Pleasuredome. \$2 advance; \$25 at the door. Music by Paul Stewart and lighting by Rick Sabala, of New York's The Saint. Tickets are available at Citizen on Castro and at B.O.D.Y.

Real Fair

Although it scarcely needs to be said, we'll do so anyway: the Castro St. Fair is more than the above. And it's more than down below, though might be excused for not knowing that. All day Sunday on Castro, there be another parade of pulchritude, much like last week's Folsom St. Fair. prediction: gym memberships will sell like hotcakes for the next few weeks.

Shakespeare In the Church

Shakespeare & Co. presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, October 7 - November 13 at First Congregational Church, Post & Mason. Don't miss Shakespeare's best-loved comedy performed by an outrageous cast of 35. All shows are at 8 p.m. Directed by Ronnie Larsen. Tickets are only \$15. Call 267-6165 for information and reservations.



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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

Graylin Thornton: Mr. Drummer 1993-94

Thornton Wins Drummer Title

The triumph of Graylin Thornton at the 1993-94 International Mr. Drummer contest last Saturday night, Sept. 25, was gilded with three "firsts": Graylin is the first black man to win the title; he is the first leather person from San Jose to win a major title; and it is the first time that both Mr. Northern California's Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy (Paul "Spot" Gilea) have won both titles!

Paul was not subjected to scrutiny by judges, but rather, was selected by the contestants themselves. And my conversations with them revealed he literally worked his little butt off to win.

Competing with 13 other contestants from U.S. regions and Canada, Graylin managed to convince the judges (Mikal Bales, Emerson Briney, John Hare, Race Bannon, Bob Wingate, Lily Burana and alternate David Ryan) that he was the best man for the job. A native of Alabama, Graylin, 32, faces a busy year. In addition to his new title obligations, he holds down a job at a major Southbay television station and is manager of Greg's Ballroom in San Jose; "busy" doesn't come close to describing his life. It's a plus, too, that Graylin is already a good friend of International Mr. Leather Henri Ten Have.

The Great Plains region, which won the title for the previous two years, was hot in the running as Joey Kraly (who had one of the best fantasies in the show — a cartoonish bunny rabbit giving a haircut and a poking with a giant carrot!) was the 1st runner-up and Southern California's Rusty Stickler took the 2nd runner-up spot. Judging from the audience's reaction, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer, Kris Rabonza, shook the rafters with his "captivity" scene with inept Arabic interrogators who threatened him with sadistic mayhem (which he secretly lusted for). Humor in the fantasies is always a crowd favorite. Yet, Mr. Southeast Drummer, Barry Bishop, was granted a standing ovation with his mournful leather-pride flag-quilting scenario.

As the emcees, Melbourne's Lauri Lane and our own Lenny Broberg, managed to inject dishful humor into the proceedings. Everyone who was anyone got a chance at the mike during the Friday and Saturday night proceedings. Fortunately, everyone exercised brevity.

Needless to say, the mastery of Fantastic Realities' Audrey Joseph and her magnificent crew employed every angle in setting the theme for

(Continued on next page)



1993 Drummer winners (l to r): Joey Kraly (Mr. Great Plains Drummer) 1st runner-up; Graylin Thornton, winner and 2nd runner-up Rusty Stickler (Mr. So. California Drummer) with (kneeling) Drummer Boy '93 Paul "Spot" Gilea. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)



Intl. Mr. Leather Henri Ten-Have was initiated by members of Club MUD up at the Russian River last Wednesday, Sept. 22 and loved every minute of the gooey day!

Mr. Marcus



Mr. Great Plains Drummer Joey Krale (and 1st runner-up) amused the audience with his "Drummer Toons" fantasy as a rabbit with a plunging carrot.
(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)

both nights with an Egyptian motif, complete with a sphinx, camels, pyramids, palm trees, Egyptian belly dancer and Queen Cougar as a vicious queen unable to be satisfied with the "boys" brought before her.

Dominick Albano's Industrial Dancers were superb and, in spite of the sponsors' bitching about rehearsals for their contestants, it was a well-tuned, well-oiled choreographic display. Kim Wallace's warbling brought the house down and, I daresay, she improves majestically with every outing! For bare skin aficionados, it's always great to see "Iron" Mike Pereyra in onstage cameo ap-

pearances, flexing, flirting, fondling and flashing all over the place.

Desmodus, Inc. and Drummer, deserve an A-plus for this year's edition of the Mr. Drummer finals. The mammoth Concourse, a great new venue, proved to be Drummer-friendly with a huge array of leather/toys/latex and t-shirt vendors comfortably lining the road to the show seating.

There were almost 92 private and public parties (play and social) throughout the week, culminating in the highly successful "Decade" edition of the Folsom Street Fair. Lucky, lucky SMMILE — the sun never fails them as

San Francisco's biggest (and best) street fair. It brought out all the hunks, freaks, feds, fats, flotsam and jetsom known to man/woman.

And did you see International Mr. Leather Henri Ten-Have with that 100-yard chain towing collared boys around Folsom? A fundraiser for his travel expenses that had cameras clicking en masse and the boys paying for the honor? His induction as a member of Club MUD up at the Rushriv on Wednesday afternoon proved a successful foray for Henri, who can really get into virtually any scenario he encounters. And his delightful traveling companion, Marion Pohle, was given carte blanche everywhere! Yes, yes, San Francisco, you did yourself proud. I hope everyone's recovered from the madness by now.

But then, the Castro Street Fair is this Sunday, Oct. 3, so rest, rest, rest!

Needless to say, there are hundreds of people to thank for expending their volunteerism, talent, hours and hours of hard work, dedication and love for the success of Leather Pride Week '93. Leather never looked this good and you should all be extremely proud of yourselves for making the San Francisco slogan, "The City That Knows How" a fantastic reality! And that's how it was. Sorry you couldn't be.

Please note that the 1993 Dyke-Daddy Contest has been set for Friday night, Oct. 15 at the SF-Eagle. Interested women can get an application form at both Mister S locations. I can tell you that Irwin Kane and Rainbeau will emcee, but more details next week.

There were so many events last week, it was impossible to attend them all. The Healing Arts show was deemed a resounding success; Intl. Mr. Bear received warm welcomes at Rey's and the

(Continued on next page)

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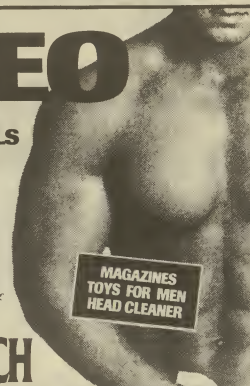
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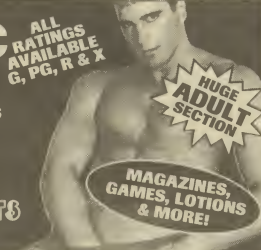
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Hug, hunky Lenny Chiofalo won the American Leatherman Contest held in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, Sept. 19.
(Photo: Marcus Wonnacott)

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UPSTAIRS

Mr. Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Lone Star; the Drummer contestants' basket auction at the Eagle on Wednesday night, Sept. 22, was a packed house with over \$2,000 raised for the Drummer travel fund; Thursday's reception at the Watering Hole by King of Leather Vern Stewart for Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Frank Nowicki and two members of the Utica Tri's MC was another packed house, a nice turnout for the Fetish & Fantasy party for the AIDS Emergency Fund. No drag after all!

Rick Booth's Russian Hill soiree garnered huge praise and Alan Selby's reception for Salt Lake City's Wasach Leathermen was rated high. Good week. Good turnout everywhere on Folsom, Harrison, Haight, Castro and alleys everywhere.

Les Disherables

How many marriages transpired between the Mr. Drummer, contestants, Drummer boys and the general public? Your guess is as good as mine. I do know that Beck's, Civic Center Motel and Ho Jo's on 9th Street, as well as the host hotel Holiday Inn, were squeaking, creaking and reeking all weekend long.



Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer Kris Rabonza wrecked the audience with his hilarious "interrogation" fantasy with a sadistic Arabic torture squad.
(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Even as late as Tuesday night after the weekend, roaming tourists were having lots and lots of fun!

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Frank Nowicki was on his best behavior all weekend, what with his Big Daddy Jim McGlade (6 ft. 6 in., 250 lbs.) along to supervise his meandering; and what about Lenny Broberg — ever the romantic one — spotted on Twin Peaks late at night with Owen Griswold, the Southeast Drummer Boy from Atlanta; 'tis rumored that Owen will move here and do the roommate thing with "Spot" in the near future; the Australian mates, while here, were overjoyed to learn that Sydney won the right to hold the Olympics in 2000! Seattle's Steve Reiswig, got some Germanic infusion too, not to mention the huge success in selling his Pryk-Tees at the Fair; and Munich's Albert Schunck was extremely exhausted, so frantic were the pursuits he encountered. He says he didn't miss his hometown event, Oktoberfest, at all. See you next week? Keep doing it — in skins! ▼



Mr. Northern California Drummer Graylin Thornton in the opening production number at the Mr. Drummer finals last Sat., Sept. 25. The theme this year was Egyptian. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

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Affairs to Remember

Thursday, Sept. 30: Hot Ash Night at the Lone Star tonight. Get out those stogies, or get out completely! And close that door! Usual time.

Weekend, Oct. 1-3: Yosemite Chapter, Knights of Malta present their annual Leatherfest all weekend with a meet and greet on Friday at the Green Lantern; Leather Fair and Barbecue at the same place on Saturday; Mr./Ms. Central Valley Leather Contest at the Metro later that night; and farewell brunch on Sunday. Call (209) 498-0314 for more info. All proceeds to the K of M Charities Fund. All in Fresno, of course.

Big rodeo in Washington, D.C., all this weekend, and the horsey set couldn't be happier, political though they may be.

Golden Gate Guards MC weekend run, "A.W.O.L." (Always Wear One's Leather?), all this weekend at Camp Mountain (near Willis/Fort Bragg). Hope you paid your fee(s) as there are no walk-ins or gate admittance.

Saturday, Oct. 2: The

Cooties and Random Violet outrageously perform at The Bear on Castro tonight to benefit the Godfather Service Fund at 2000, including a 50/50 raffle. Fee for all this is not mentioned.

"Blonde Babylon" is the theme of the Mr./Ms. Gay SF Pageant tonight in Pleasure-dome's back room. Tix are \$10 advance/\$12 door. Call 921-6825 for more info if you need it. Action begins at 1900.

Sunday, Oct. 3: Castro Street Fair all day today, and some partygoers will arrive after all-night dancing. Lay your traps. Hope for good weather! No press release from them, after all, captive audience! After the fair, those fun-lovers, Real Bad V dance party at 174 King St. to benefit the Victory Fund, \$20, from 1900-0100 Monday!

Tuesday, Oct. 5: SFGDI's open dinner meeting at Chez Mollet tonight at 1900 with dinner specials ranging from \$11.95 to \$13.95.

Saturday, Oct. 9: Leather Daddy Philip Turner's Leather

Elegance night from 2000-2300 at 3731 16th St., open bar, hors d'oeuvres from Lupann's, entertainment for \$25/advance, \$35/door, \$50 benefactor or \$100 sponsor (with limo provided to/from). For more information call 621-8550. Yes, it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Weekend Oct. 8-10: The NLA's "Living in Leather VIII" in Houston all this weekend with parties, fun, seminars, lectures, and the Mr./Ms. NLA contest. Call (415) 863-2444 for info. Call (800) 325-3535 for rooms at Sheraton Astrodomo Hotel.

Weekend Oct. 8-11: American Uniform Association's 16th Annual "Review," a gathering of uniform mavens this year in Los Angeles. A marathon of parties, dinners, beer/soda busts, and uniform fun. California B&B Corps, Regiment of Black & Tans and California Corps of Rangers host the Officer's Dress Mess on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 1830 at the Bel Age hotel in West Hollywood. Call (213) 665-6550 for info. ▼

Sports Guide

Football

Women's Flag Football: Interested women should stop by Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields on Sundays, or call Maureen (415) 479-1131.

San Francisco Trojans Football. Two games every Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Silver Terrace near Silver and Bayshore in SF. All skill levels welcome. Call Gary at 344-8873.

Soccer

San Francisco Spikes Men's Soccer. Practice Tuesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., at Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. Call Carlo Togni at 821-4248.

Women's Soccer. Call Golden Gate Women's Soccer League Chair Jan Mullen at 753-0946.

Volleyball

Volleyball practice every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Call Tony Travers at 255-1332.

Club Volleyball Practice for "B" league players and up every Saturday except first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Team and individual advanced players practice every Monday, 7:05 p.m., at Glen Park Gymnasium. Call Mike Bulawit at 731-2056.

Gay Volleyball. Every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 18th St. & DeHaro. Everyone welcome. Jay: 864-0257.

Racquet and Paddle Sports

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation — Abi 333-9618, or Carlos 626-7519.

Table Tennis Anyone? Practice Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Milberry Union, UCSF, 500 Parnassus, SF. Call Allen Balderston, 626-1787, or Lucie, 387-4476.

Bay Area Racquetball Club. Mixed league every Sat., starting Sat., Oct. 24, 10 a.m., at Schoeber's Athletic Club in South San Francisco. All skill levels welcome. Call Wref Fulton at 285-6909 or Lynn at 467-5569.

Team San Francisco

Gay Games bound Team San Francisco hopes to take at least 1,000 athletes from the Bay Area to Gay Games IV in New York, June 18-25, 1994. A deposit of \$100 (refundable through December) is needed now to secure housing in New York. Registration for all sports in GGIV begins in October. Through a quarterly newsletter and monthly calendars, TSF will supply you with the latest information coming out of New York, travel & housing, registration packets for all sports, your uniform for Opening & Closing Ceremonies, and funds to help you get there. To join TSF, call (415)-824-8118.

Swimming

Tsunami Masters Swim Club — call Suzanne at 824-1933.

Scuba Diving

Sea Snakes — Gay & lesbian scuba diving club, local boat & beach dives, classes, warm water trips. Beginner classes offered. Call 431-1340.

Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club. Fully sanctioned USABF (United States Amateur Boxing Federation) meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. Open to all interested gay men and lesbians; all skill levels are welcome. Call Greg at 337-6245.

Hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club — Call Clyde at 285-1260.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, official activity section of the Sierra Club. Call the hotline: 281-5666.

Running

San Francisco FrontRunners. Fun runs at Stow Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park, every Saturday, 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows. Call John at 863-0954.

San Francisco Track & Field, practice every Tues. and Thurs., 6 p.m., and Sun., 10:00 a.m., at Kezar Stadium on Waller & Stanyan streets, SF. Call Rick 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380 or Lois Allen at 586-6013.

Wrestling

San Francisco Wrestling Club practices Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Call Jim Frazier (510) 538-8490.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club. Practice Thursdays and Fridays, 7 p.m., at Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels, men and women welcome. Call Gene at 821-2991. Bay Area Wrestling Newsline at 227-5802.

Bowling

Women's Business Bowling League. Call Ann at 641-5795. Tavern Guild Bowling League. Call Mal Garcia at 752-2366.

Bodybuilding

B.I.C.E.P.S. Bodybuilders Into Competition, Education & Physiques. Open to men and women. Call 267-1864 or Nick at 431-5691.

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society. Call 978-9495 or write ABS, 1230 Market Street, SF, CA 94114.

Bicycling

Different Spokes Bicycle Club — Every Sunday: Decide-n-Ride. Open to all, 10 a.m., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. Every Tuesday: strenuous training ride, McLaren Lodge, 5:30 p.m. Call Derek at (510) 339-2345.

Boating

Barbary Coast Boating Club. Gay boat owners and enthusiasts meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Berkeley Yacht Club, Berkeley Marina. West to the end of University Ave. #1 Seawall Drive. (415) 905-6267.

Basketball

San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team. Call Susan at 648-4931.

Men's Basketball — call Tony at 621-2710.

Track & Field

Tracksters Set for Season Closer

The San Francisco Track & Field Club closes out the 1993 season this Saturday, October 2, at the Club West Masters meet in Santa Barbara. And for the competing SFT&FC quintet, this final meet comes as a welcome relief.

"We're ready to finish off the year and start focusing on next season and the Gay Games," co-coach Frank Demby commented. "It's been a long season and we're all pretty tired." Joining Demby in Santa Barbara will be Eddie Hall, Rob Lenderink, Lefe Fowler and Rick Thoman.

Lenderink, Hall and Thoman are nursing injuries of varying severity but are anxious for one more try to lower personal and Club times for the season.

"I think we have a good shot at improving our time in both the 400 meter relay and 1600 meter relays," said sprinting powerhouse Hall. "We're just hoping that the injuries don't get in the way."

The SFT&FC lowered their 400 meter relay time at the recent NorCal Seniors meet at UC Berkeley. Highlighted by a scorching sprint from first man Demby, the team sped by the competition for first place, at a gold medal/season best time of 47.0 seconds. Second man Hall claims, "If we can get our hand-offs down, we can drop that time to 46 or 45 next season, and we may even do it in Santa Barbara."

The Berkeley meet was the final competition for SFT&FC's women sprinters Valerie Scott and Michele Lewis. Scott continued to show off her increased speed as she took second in both the 100 and 200 meter events. Lewis, who has struggled this season, was close behind Scott in both races, finishing in 3rd place.

Costly Collision

Also running well in Berkeley were Demby (in the 100 & 200 meters), Hall (200 meters), Lenderink (800 meters), Kenny Patterson (100 meters) and Gary Schlimgen (100 & 200 meters). The Club's 1600 meter relay had the potential of lowering the season best time, but a collision between third man Demby and anchor man Lenderink abruptly ended their chances.

Of the accident that toppled both runners to the track, Demby downplayed it, saying that "it was the final race of the day and I think we were all a little tired. I don't see it happening again. But it does point out the importance of hand-offs and how a relay can be won or lost depending on the proficiency of the baton pass."

San Francisco hopes to have several top notch relay squads ready for next year's Gay Games. The City holds the record in both the 400 meter relay (45.1 seconds set in 1986) and the 1600 meter relay (3:37, set at the 1990 Vancouver Games).

"The relays are undeniably the most exciting events at a track meet," said Demby. "We've always had the good fortune to get the gold at the previous Gay Games and we want to repeat in New York next year. The possibility remains that if we can get enough athletes together we could take both the gold and



SFT & FC's 400 meter relay team after their first place showing in the Berkeley meet.

(Photo: Rick Thoman)

silver. But we need to get those runners out now and start working on the hand-offs." ▼

Editor's Note: The San Francisco Track & Field Club continues to welcome new members regardless of age or previous experience. The Club will be taking a few weeks off before beginning off-season training. For more

information, call (415) 550-7966. The Club is trying to raise money to go to next year's Gay Games. They are trying to put together a low-rate, quality travel and housing package for anyone interested (athlete or spectator). For details or reservations, call Bryan Travel Agency at (415) 731-8411 and ask for the San Francisco Track & Field Club's Gay Games package.

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Holland

(Continued from page 37)

book, it's hard to draw that conclusion.

Actually, to be accurate, the boy in the book is eleven, and he knows what sex is. Do you feel the relationship with the soldier wasn't as sweet and innocent as it looks on film?

When I think of a young man in his early twenties having sex with a child, I don't think that's right — heterosexual or homosexual.

Do you think Rudi feels this way?

I don't know. I believe he didn't publish this book until after his mother died, because he didn't want her to know what happened to him. She sent him there [to the countryside, where he met the soldier] because she didn't want him to starve in Amsterdam. She was trying to take care of him.

There's a scene in the film where you're both shown naked in bed, with Maarten Smit lying on his stomach beneath you. Was it awkward to film?

Yes, it was pretty difficult. We did quite a few takes. Maarten was very nervous and upset by it, even in rehearsal. When we first met each other it was a bit awkward, but we did this scene near the end of the shoot, so we had become friends by that point. When we started

rehearsing it, I was trying to be a bit distant because I was afraid of hurting him — and I could tell he was afraid, too. We rehearsed it a few times. He wondered out loud, "What are my friends in school going to think?" I told him I was thinking the same thing about my friends, but when you're 13 you care about these things more.

Where were his parents?

At home? I don't know. His acting coach was on the set. Maarten attends a performing arts school here. It was a very awkward scene. We were going into overtime and the crew started getting rushed and testy. Maarten didn't really want me around him after it was over. That was about a week before the end of the picture and he shied away from me for several days. Later, he was back to the way he was before. I felt bad for him, it was very intimidating. I'm mean, there we were, both naked, and he had this 185-lb. guy on top of him.

Could the director have done anything to prepare him better?

I don't know. Maybe.

What's the best thing to come you way by virtue of having made this film?

I made another film which comes out in the fall. It's an opera with Kiri Te Kanawa called *The Sorceress*, filmed for television. It will be on PBS. I don't have a speaking role. I play her lover.

Do you undress?



Walt (Andrew Kelley, left) and Jeroen (Maarten Smit, right) share a tender moment in Roeland Kerbosch's *For a Lost Soldier*.

Only from the waist up.

What's the worst thing that came your way because of this film?

Somebody waited outside the ballet for me. He was sort of middle-aged. He waited every night for three days, but I wasn't performing until the third day. He talked to me and gave me a letter explaining that the same thing happened to him with a teacher when he was young. I felt really bad for him. Maybe he wanted to think the teacher loved him, but the teacher just wanted to screw him. Maybe he has a problem, and thinks I understand because I played this part, but that's not necessarily

so — and even if it were, there's nothing I could do for him.

Andrew, you're working at a career in ballet and you're in this film playing a gay man, yet you're not gay.

Not so far.

How are you dealing with all this, being straight?

I get some jokes from the straight guys at the ballet, some ribbing from my friends, but that's over now — at least until the subject of the film comes up, then it starts all over again. The ballet is a special world. There are some real queens in the ballet and we make fun of them — all of us — and they like it. You have straight guys who are totally paranoid about being touched by other men and other guys who are totally normal about it — gay or straight. If I wasn't a ballet dancer, I wouldn't have been exposed to homosexuals. I didn't know gay people existed until I was 13 or 14, but being in ballet, after a while it becomes just normal.

We've been waiting a long time for balanced portrayals

of gay people in film. Some people might resent the fact that when a part as good as this one comes along, it goes to a straight actor — especially when so many gay actors have been denied parts because of their homosexuality.

Do you think this role should have been played by a gay person?

No I don't think so. What does it matter? It's a movie. I'm sure there's a lot of gay or straight actors who could have done it a lot better than me, but I got it.

Are you going to pursue an acting career or dance?

I've just done these two films. I'd like to do films, but I miss the people clapping. If you make a mistake on film, it's there forever, but in dance if you mess up there are only 1,600 people who see the performance. ▼

Editor's Note: For a Lost Soldier opens Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Lumiere Theatre, California and Polk streets. For information regarding showtimes, call (415) 885-3200.

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Boy's story

(Continued from page 37)

to eat in wartime Amsterdam. Early one morning, Jeroen's father informs the boy that he is being sent to the Dutch countryside to stay with "the farmers" where there will be more food to eat and, consequently, less worry for his parents. This potentially life-saving decision marks the beginning of Jeroen's trauma — his terror of never seeing his parents again and his confusion when initiated into the world of sex and romantic love.

Love arrives, at first, in the form of an infatuation with a slightly older, more world-wise companion, Jan, who has also been sent to the Dutch provinces for better nourishment. Jan becomes the source of Jeroen's first romantic and sexual fantasies, initiating him in the strange and sticky pleasures of masturbation. But the older boy does not share Jeroen's romantic feeling (a girl's wet, newly-transparent blouse is what turns Jan on) and his indifference leaves Jeroen hungry for a more complete connection.

The boy's erotic curiosity

finds sudden, unexpected fulfillment in the form of a Canadian soldier named Walt, one of the many foreign military men who arrive one day and are quickly proclaimed as the liberators of the Netherlands. Inexplicably, Walt focuses immediately on Jeroen, seeming to understand intuitively that they share a common sexual bond.

Walt is young and muscular and irresistibly vital in his enthusiasm for life; Walt is also kind, often paternal toward Jeroen, and sexually insistent. He teaches the boy to kiss, to enjoy sensual pleasure, and he forces him to give head.

New World

Sex with Walt is something that is new for the boy, something very masculine and loving that is occasionally scary and violent. The book's erotic passages are among the best and most compelling that I have ever read. In one section, after just having had sex that has made him "... shiver so violently" that his whole body shakes, Jeroen reflects on his feelings for the soldier.

Walt stretches out beside me and puts his arms and legs around me: a smell of iron, of warmth and sleep. I

(Continued on next page)



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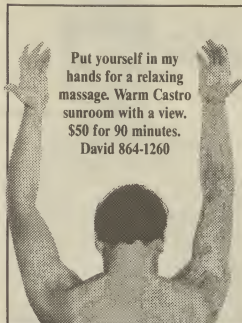


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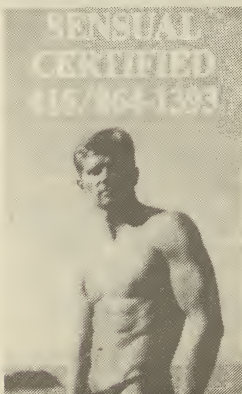
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Photo: Steve Savage
MATT
serious massage by appointment
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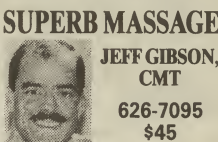
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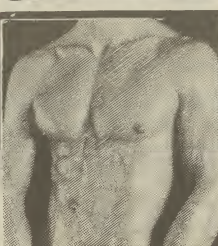
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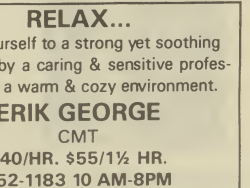
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A RELAXING MASSAGE
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Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table. Hard to Beat It
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STRONG HANDS
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5'10", 160, 25 y/o, Smooth, Clean-cut, ★ Friendly & Handsome!
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A Relaxing & Complete Massage

WALNUT CREEK
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HANDSOME, SENSUAL.
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Massage by 20 y.o.
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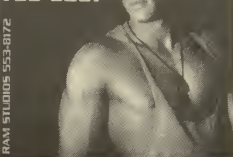
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ANYTIME UC STUD
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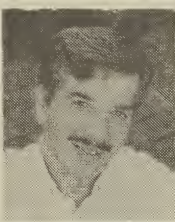
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massage by good looking
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sensitive
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\$40 • Jim
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Excellent full body
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One Hr. Total Please With
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Swedish • Breema (no oils)
Nr. Castro • \$55/90 min.
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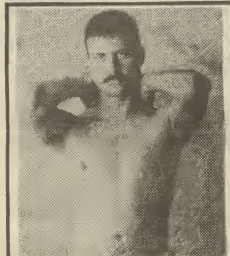
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Especially like small
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Erotic nude massage.

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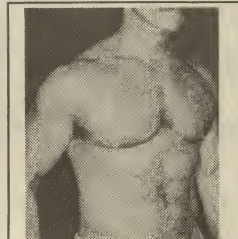
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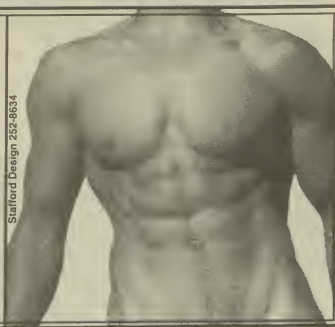
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Hot Oil Lotion Ice Mix By
Young Handsome Muscular
\$50/In \$60/Out
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Ex-Football Jock Gives
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Nude mass by well built man.
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Ahhh...

Slow Sensual Complete
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Strong, Gentle Hands
Deep, Pain-Free Massage
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Built tight, muscular
Blond man, 32, 6', 190lbs., Very
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Sensual massage in the buff.
\$45in/\$60out 24 hrs.

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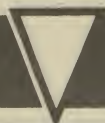
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By Strong, Creative and
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People and Personals

MASSAGE



**6', 190# AND
SOOOOOO HOT!
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Professional Non-Sexual massage—join my clientele serious about their body and mind—ask about group lessons—Ken 749-0221 CMT.

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Massages, Teases & Pleases
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Wholesomely Handsome, 33
6', 195 lbs., great tan body
1 1/4 hr. super massage
in nude; Japan Center
\$45/In \$60/Out 24 hours.
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Highly Trained
In Many Styles
Intuitively Gifted
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Smooth Touch
By Hot Young Man
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HUNKY & HOT

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Get Hot Get Hot Get Hot
BUFF MASSAGE BI BOY
Total Enjoyment With A
Trained Masseur
3C. 280-1719
GET HOT!

HAVE A LOAD

OF FUN AND THEN SOME.
PARTY WITH 2 VERSATILE
TOPS. IN/OUT 24 HRS.
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Hot, Well-Hung, Friendly
VERY SEXY

Clean Cut, 23 y/o Top Boy
with smooth, athletic body
& crew cut. Out. Hotels OK.
Glenn. pgr. 280-0930 \$100

SENSUAL S & M

Safe and sensual topman, dominant and experienced, expert in bondage, gradual S&M, C&B and chestwork. Patient with beginners, sensitive enough to know just how much to stretch your ... uh ... horizons. Explore new territory safely, with a real master. 626-3034 Roger — short, built and clean-cut—at least on the outside.

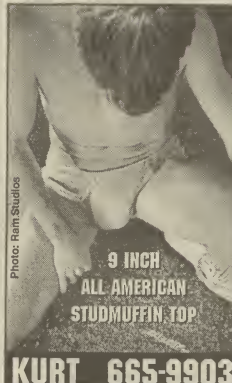
HOT RUSSIAN

26 y/o, 5'9", 150#, uncut 8", \$70
All Scenes. Pgr. 708-0180

Blond Long Hair Rocker
Smooth, Hung. \$70. 626-3031

Tanned • Tall • Masc • Top-8 in.
Drug Free Escort. Never In
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Porn Star



**9x7" Huge 10" Hanger
Michel 621-3950**

6 Ft. Eight in Young Dad, 35
Size 15 shoes, nasty socks
Grungy jocks. Sleazy butt—
Sophisticated. Pgr.# 280-0019
\$100/Out Brent

Beer Can Crammed Down A
Levi Leg. Burt 648-1812

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Handsome, Dark Hair, Swmrs
Bld, Nice Butt, 5'9", 145,
29, GkP, FrA, caring, well educ.
Steven 979-8132

25 Y/O, 180#, 6'4", 8"

HOT SERVICE
(510) 938-9160 pgr. 907-4473
Rick 24 Hrs.

HANDSOME MAN

Hung Puppy Top. 739-0227

BLACK EX-FOOTBALL PLAYER

5'10", 210#, Dominant Top
What Can You Handle? \$150

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Call Back Required

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for this smooth, built, 25 yo,
BLOND STUD PUP

5'11", 170#, 8 1/2"
THICK & HARD

Verbal, fun, nice to nasty!
Playroom + toys. 280-1719

FRENCH MARINE

Body Builder
240 Pounds, 25 years old
6'1", 52" ch., 20" a.
**New In Town
From Paris
560-2478**

Hot Blond Stripper—Kinky
top. Julian 255-6433

Complete Massage By GK. 24 Hrs.
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Handsome Guy Into All Scenes.
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Sane
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Gloves, kinky, Andy. 5'9", 175
stach, 861-2668. Sling.
Movies, Exper. Safe \$70

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HOT BLOODED 6', 140
HANDSOME U/C
NO TIME LIMIT/OUT ONLY
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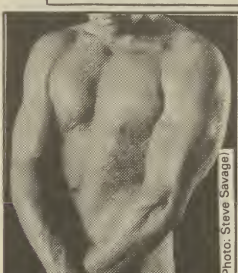
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Handsome, Hot, Hungry, Hung!
Masculine ★ Uncut ★ Versatile
BIG 9" BEAUTY

29 y/o, 6'2", 170#, Friendly Stud
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call (415) 861-5019

People and Personals

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6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
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Lord 431-0959

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Italian. 807-3909

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6'2", 185, 8 1/2 x 6, 26 y/o
Serving All Bay Areas
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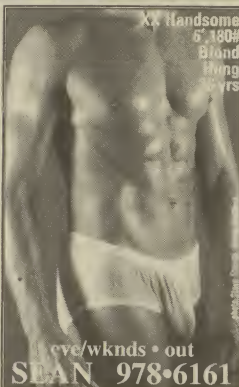
Hot, Muscular & Sensual
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BLUE COLLAR GUY, 27,
5'9", STUDLY, SEEKS
MEN WHO WEAR DERBY
JACKETS, BEN DAVIS
PANTS, BEANIES, BOOTS.
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AND TATTOOS. THICK
GOATTEE, MUSTACHE.
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JEFF • \$100
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Passionate • Sexy • Versatile
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27, 5'7", 140#, Hung Nice
French/Japanese, Hot Butt!
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40, 6'5", hairy, beard, big
balls, nice tits. 1st timers
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Scott Taylor • \$80 703-7106

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HARD, MUSCULAR
GREEK.
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2 beautiful, blond, boys!
Friendly, versatile, smooth!
One/both 607-8672 In/out



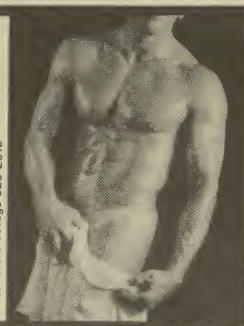
MASCULINE • HARD • HAIRY
VERBAL ABUSE
SHOWOFF
8X6" MAC 267-1800

HOT

28, 6', 185#
INCREDIBLY
HANDSOME
BROWN HAIR
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SMOOTH, TAN
RIPPED BODY
GREAT LEGS
VERY SEXY
MASCULINE
9X6 CUT
TOTALLY HOT

CALL BUCK
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Photo: Steve Savage 626-2610



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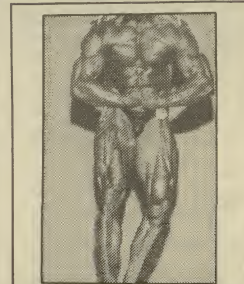
26, 6', 245#, 19A, 30 Thighs
Big Beef, Always Ready
No Limits. Steve
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MC/Visa Accepted

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5'9", 150 Hot Pistol
A Warm Bearded Handsome
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strong lovin' arms
will ride you way
off into the sunset
& make your cowboy
dreams come true.
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6'2" Bodybuilder, 270 lbs.
56" c, 21" a, 32" w, 30" thighs
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in S.F. until Oct. 4 only!

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YOUNG BOY
9X6" HORSE HUNG
23 Y.O. BLOND SMOOTH
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5'10", 175, BLD HR
BL EYES, TIGHT BOD
406-3092 PG
EVENINGS + WK ENDS

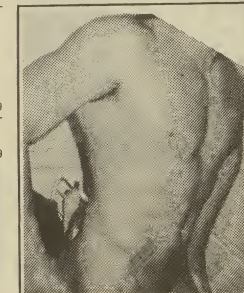
X-Army Sgt. 6'4", 195 lbs.
Hairy. Chuck 431-1579

YOUNG

20 yrs., Smooth Skin,
Long Hair, 5'8", 135 lbs.

7"
CUPID 621-5262

250 lbs, 6ft.
21 inch arms, 53 inch chest.
469-6489
Bpr. # 698-2373
Incredible!



Young and Very Attractive
245-3606 Pgr.
Will Schmelt

26 YO MARINE

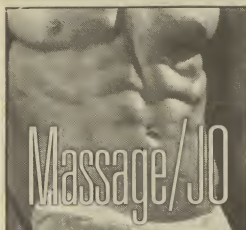
REAL HANDSOME & MACHO
Br/Bl, 5'10", 160#, 30" W, Hung
24 HR. PAGER 245-1410





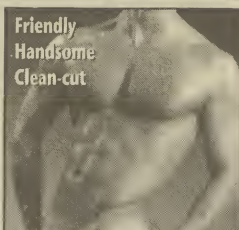
People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS



Massage/JO

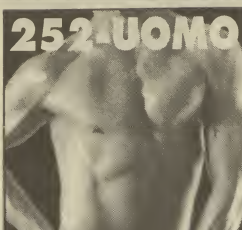
Steve 753-6539



Friendly Handsome Clean-cut

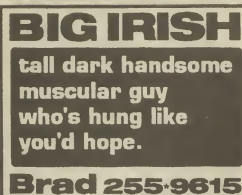
6' 175# East Bay/AF - Out

KEVIN
510-713-2239



252 UOMO


WHAT'S ITALIAN UNCUT AND HUNG NINE INCHES?



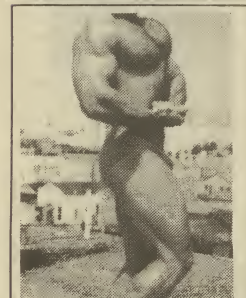
BIG IRISH

tall dark handsome muscular guy who's hung like you'd hope.

Brad 255-9615



998-6514 \$100



Seen in '93 Fox Calendar Musclemag. 5'11", 228 lbs. 53c, 19 1/2 a, 29w, 28t

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Pager # (415) 227-9344



CHASE - 546-7825



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HOT ROD

TRAVEL

863-SEXY

HANDSOME • FRIENDLY • MASCULINE

6' 175# BROWN/BLUE 9x6 IN/OUT MASSAGE INCLUDED



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Latin-American, Hot, Trim, Very Versatile, Handsome, 28, 150, 5'10" Sexy, Hung, Playful

Pager number: **280.2936**

Feel the Heat!!



FANTASY

6'2" 180 lb. In/Out

267-1840 LEX - 100

SENSUAL MASSAGE

ITALIAN BODY

B/Builder, 230 Lbs., 6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A, 25 Years Old

From Italy

207-9337

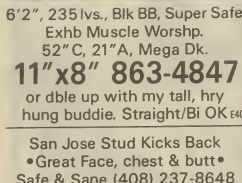


SPANKING BONDAGE FF-TT

SLING HOT DAD MARK

\$50

647-4057




6'2", 235 lbs., Blk BB, Super Safe Exhb Muscle Worship. 52"C, 21"A, Mega Dk. 11"x8" **863-4847**

or dble up with my tall, hry hung buddie. Straight/Bi OK E40

San Jose Stud Kicks Back • Great Face, chest & butt • Safe & Sane (408) 237-8648 E40

Tim ★ 647-3624 ★ page 202-6674

SKINPUNK BOY E-1



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24 Yrs. and Ready

CHRIS 560-0942



Southern Gentle man

Johnny 567-2952



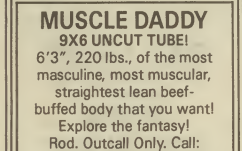
TIM 647-3624/out



BIG BUTCH FOOTBALL COACH

6 ft., 200 LBS. of Muscle Handsome & Hairy Hung/Big and Thick

(408) 425-3135 OUT ONLY



MUSCLE DADDY


9X6 UNCUT TUBE! 6'3", 220 lbs., of the most masculine, most muscular, straightest lean beef-buffed body that you want! Explore the fantasy! Rod. Outcall Only. Call: Bpr. 677-4718



Steven, 6'2", 180, Hairy, Defined Body. Trim Hair/Beard. Hung long/thick. 431-5974 E39

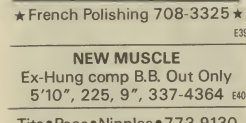
BRONZED STUD

Skin has a sleek, dark rich finish. Body is tight, lean and buffed! Well bred, mature minded. Sensitive and lots of fun! OK for in-calls days/nites. Pager 207-2516 E40



NEW IN TOWN

SEXY ATHLETIC STUD 6'1", 190#, 28 YRS, 9X6 CALL JEFF 281-0747 E39



★ French Polishing 708-3325 ★ E39

NEW MUSCLE

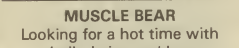
Ex-Hung comp B.B. Out Only 5'10", 225, 9", 337-4364 E40

Tits • Pecs • Nipples • 773-9130 E39



YOUNG CYCLIST

XclInt Legs & Butt Very Handsome Scott 252-7092 E39



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Spanking • Paddling • 773-9130 E39



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Masc., Versatile. Hung Ex-Navy Man. 915-1235 E39

Hot Mouth "B.J." 708-3325 E42

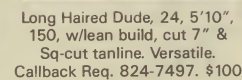
Daniel 621-2354 Out Only My Hands/Your Hungry Butt E39

Stallion Bpr. # 807-5690 E39

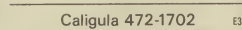


ASIAN TOP

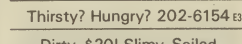
\$60 Jim 267-1817 E39



Long Haired Dude, 24, 5'10", 150, w/lean build, cut 7" & Sq-cut tanline. Versatile. Callback Req. 824-7497. \$100 E39



Caligula 472-1702 E39



Thirsty? Hungry? 202-6154 E39

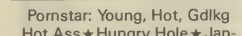
Dirty, \$20! Slimy, Soiled Used Escort Briefs. 560-2424 E39

Tattoos, pierced. 202-6154 E39



BUTCH LATIN

Ripped Hard Body. 24 Yr. Old. 627-1757 24 Hrs. E39



Pornstar: Young, Hot, Gd/kg Hot Ass ★ Hungry Hole ★ Jap-Hawaiian 27, 24 Hr. 328-5304 E41



SERVICE HOT HANDSOME MUSCLE HUNK

TOUGH 29 Y/O SAFE TOP IN OUT \$100 255-0173 E39



HOT TOP MAN

6', 160 Lbs., 40 Y/O

FF CBT SLING CHAINS TOYS S/M

SPANKING BONDAGE

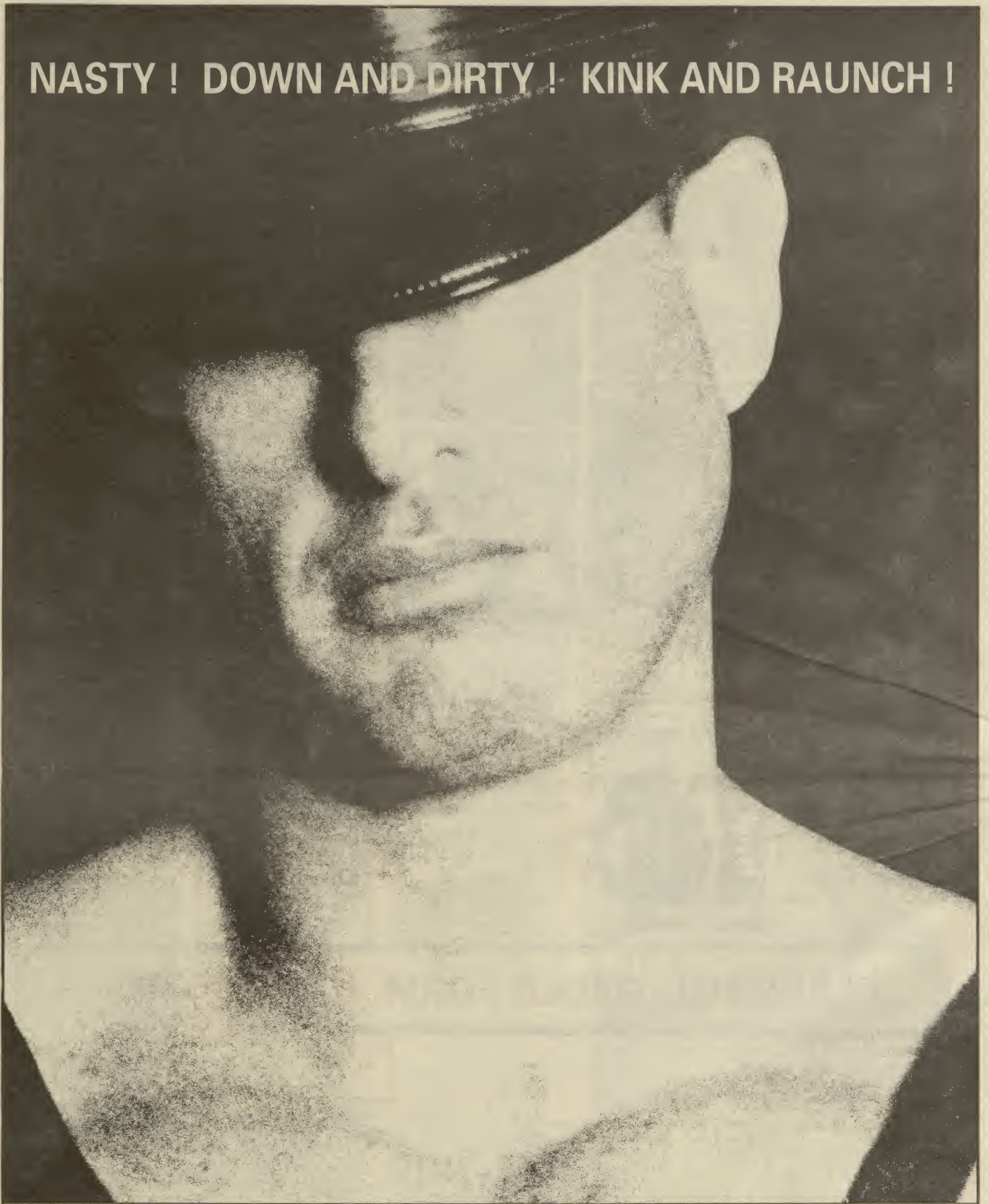
Limits Respected Will 922-8992

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